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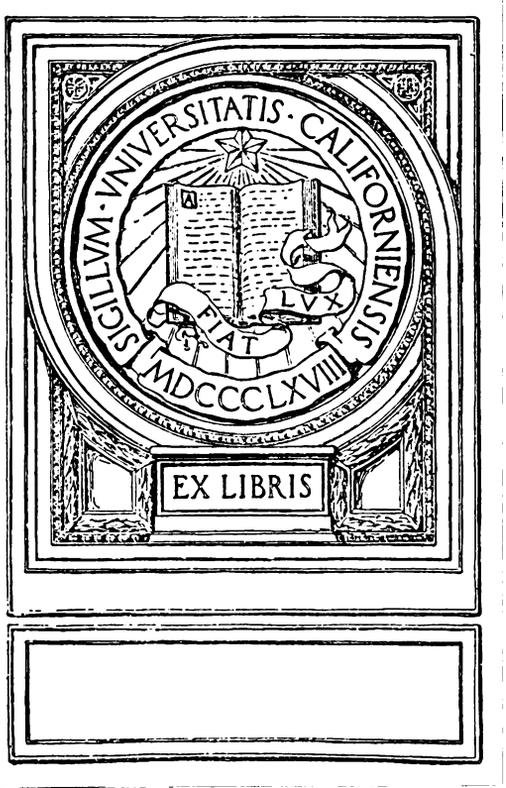

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UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

THE SUDAN ISSUE.

THE NEAR EAST

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED "THE INDIAMAN."

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

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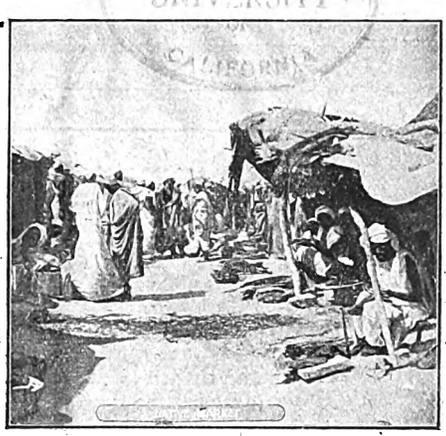

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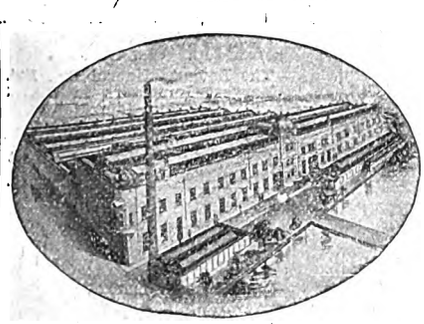

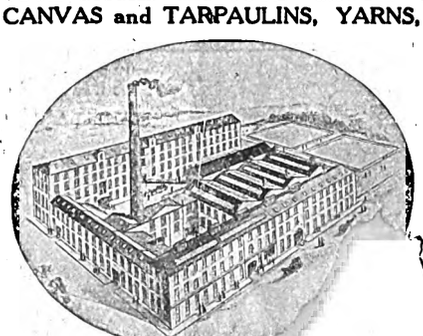

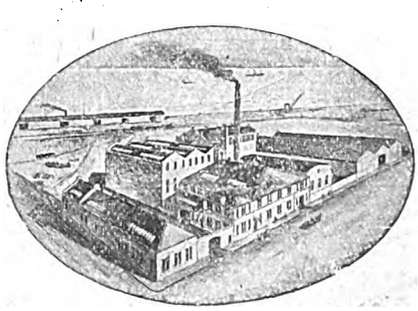

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 686—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, JULY 3, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Egypt and the Sudan.

Anglo-Egyptian relations have absorbed the chief interest in Near and Middle Eastern affairs during the past week. The emphatic declaration of Lord Parmoor in the House of Lords on June 25 that the Government was not going to abandon the Sudan in any sense whatever was the official reply to Zaghloul Pasha's increasingly aggressive declarations of what he was going to do and was not going to do when he came to London to negotiate with the British Government. As long as it could, the latter has very carefully abstained from any statement on the pending negotiations, and the British public and Parliament have been urged not to prejudge the questions at issue before the representatives of the two countries could meet and exchange views. The Egyptian Prime Minister, however, immediately the subject of a conference was raised, proceeded to adopt an attitude which could be justified only if he had been coming to London as a conqueror to a defeated country for the purpose of dictating terms of surrender. This may not have been Zaghloul Pasha's intention, but it was certainly the impression conveyed at this end by his provocative speeches. Possibly he hoped to keep his own followers quiet, and trusted to Great Britain's ignoring what he said. If so, he overlooked the effect of his speeches on others, and in particular on the Sudan itself. Never would silence on any subject have been more golden than when the responsible heads of two countries arrange to discuss amicably points of issue between them.

The Fate of the Negotiations.

The bluntness of the British Government's statement regarding the Sudan has come as a shock to Egyptian opinion. At a meeting of the Chamber on Saturday Zaghloul Pasha expressed somewhat naïvely his disappointment that a Labour Government in Britain should endorse the policy of its predecessors, and went on to declare that "Egypt will not cede the Sudan as long as she lives," but would safeguard her rights against "the usurper" in every legitimate way. A further asseveration that Egypt would never "cede" the Sudan suggests that the British Government, in reply to Zaghloul Pasha's inquiries regarding the proposed negotiations, had informed him that Egypt was to be called upon to "cede" the Sudan. It would be interesting to know whether any such suggestion was officially made to Zaghloul Pasha; if it were not, his repeated use of the word "cede" would constitute grave misrepresentation deliberately calculated to inflame the minds of his hearers and to deceive public opinion in Egypt. His speech, however, carried the whole of the Assembly with him; he was accorded a unanimous vote of confidence, and when subsequently he handed to King Fuad the resignation of the whole Cabinet it was naturally and very properly refused. The question arises whether Zaghloul Pasha will now undertake the negotiations. The matter rests entirely with him, for it would be manifestly untrue, after the vote of confidence accorded to him, to urge that he is in any way hampered by the Assembly or by public opinion. We are convinced that it is in the interests of Egypt, as well as of Great Britain, that the negotiations should take place, and we trust that Zaghloul Pasha will decide to come to London. It would be useless, however, to attempt to disguise the fact that British public opinion—and, therefore, presumably official opinion—would be quite indifferent to the cancellation of the conference. The object of the negotiations is to modify —in Egypt's favour as far as possible—the *status quo* in regard to three subjects, and to draw up a fresh agreement regarding a fourth subject. If this is not done things remain as they are. Certainly, in the case of the Sudan, it is not in Egypt's power to effect any change except by agreement with Great Britain. Ordinary prudence, therefore, to say nothing of wise statesmanship, ought to have prompted an entirely different attitude towards the British invitation from that hitherto adopted by Zaghloul Pasha and the Assembly.

The Egyptian Case.

It has never been supposed in responsible quarters in Great Britain that Egypt would not be able to make out a case for her claim to the Sudan. What has been perfectly certain all along is that her case could not be properly put by mere assertion in the Assembly or on public platforms, nor indeed could the British side of the question be adequately investigated before it had been officially stated.

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As a result of the Egyptian tactics, what has happened is this : In response to the British request for "free discussion and friendly accommodation on both sides to conclude agreements" in regard to certain questions, including that of the Sudan, Egypt has declared that she is going to have the Sudan, and will not discuss it; after her Prime Minister has publicly repeated this statement some half a dozen times, the British Government has retorted by pointing out that it has not the least intention of abandoning the Sudan to Egypt. If on reflection Egypt and her Prime Minister are content with their method of handling an admittedly difficult question, there is nothing more to be said. If, on the other hand, they have any belief in the soundness and justice of their claim, they will recognise the strength of the British position and will see that their case is adequately put at a round-table conference. They can show that the reconquest of the Sudan was formally undertaken by Great Britain on Egypt's behalf, and that it was in the name of the Khedive of Egypt that Lord Kitchener required Major Marchand to withdraw from Fashoda. Then came the Anglo-Egyptian Convention of January 19, 1899, which laid it down that Great Britain, by right of conquest, was entitled "to share in the settlement and future working and development" of the Sudan. Thus it was Great Britain, and not Egypt, who caused the authority of the Turkish Sultan to be excluded from the Sudan, and with it the capitulatory régime which held good in Egypt itself. Clearly here is a subject for reasoned argument, and not for undignified bluster. The amenities of international intercourse ought always to be safe in the hands of a Prime Minister, declaim his followers never so loudly.

Britain's Point of View.

A dignified and masterly exposition of the British attitude towards the proposed negotiations with Egypt was given in the House of Commons on Monday last by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. The Prime Minister said that he had been hoping that the questions still outstanding between an independent Egypt and Great Britain might have been settled in the calm conditions of personal negotiations. He expressed regret that "statements have been made to the Egyptian Parliament, and action taken to create trouble in the Sudan, which can only be explained as an attempt to force our hands and deprive Zaghloul Pasha of liberty to negotiate": and, after declaring that he had desired to say nothing which would have limited the freedom of discussion, he continued : "In view of what has happened, it is necessary that I should make it clear to all concerned that I do not believe that this House would accept any arrangement which would break our pledges given to the Sudan or jeopardise the present administration and development of that country."

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Indiscipline in Greece.

The Greek republican Ship of State continues to experience stormy weather, and the Prime Minister has had to ask the Chamber for a vote of confidence on three occasions within a month. After surviving a revolt in his own Cabinet, M. Papanastasiou is now confronted with a strike of naval officers. Nearly seventy per cent. of the combatant officers of the Greek Navy have resigned as a protest against the administration of the Minister of Marine, whose immediate resignation is demanded, and thereafter the appointment of a civilian Minister. The incident cannot fairly be used as an argument against the republican system, but it suggests that the spirit of public indiscipline so successfully inaugurated seven or eight years ago by M. Venizelos will not easily be exorcised from modern Greece. No section of the community is likely to suffer more than the Army and Navy from the absence of authority above party politics of the day. Favouritism may not have been unknown to the monarchy, but there were more potent checks against open protests than seem to exist in a régime in which the son of the President resigns his naval commission as a protest against the appointment as one of his senior officers of the Prime Minister's brother-in-law.

The Indian Extremists.

The manœuvres of the various sections into which the Indian extremists have divided are still in progress as we write, and it would be unprofitable to attempt a forecast of the outcome, but in any case they must be allowed to have led India some little way forward along the arduous path of reality, because the rivals have begun to say in public what they really think about each other, and, in, doing so, some of them occasionally hit upon the truth. A striking example is the contention of the "parliamentary Swarajists," as we suppose they must now be called, that Mr. Gandhi, however saintly he may be, is a man unfit to take part in practical politics. A live democracy would have noticed that obvious fact some years ago, but in India the sense of political discrimination is still largely undeveloped, and the saint has loomed through the mist like a statesman, with decidedly unfortunate results. By and by we may hope for a clearer recognition of the principle of division of labour. It is the saint's business to inspire and purify politics, but not to construct platforms. Mr. Gandhi's amateur carpentry is now widely distrusted, and he will do more to promote his own honourable ideals, if he will leave platforms to the professionals, and concentrate his efforts on his proper work.

Hindus and Moslems.

Another advance in the direction of reality is, we fear, indicated in the news that the Punjab Government finds itself compelled to prosecute two journals for inflammatory religious propaganda. Press prosecutions are hateful things to administrators, and we may be sure that Sir Malcolm Hailey would have nothing to do with them if he could help it, but the truth is that in the Punjab, and also in some other parts of India, large numbers of Hindus and Moslems are ready to fly at each other's throats, and journalists who exploit such embittered feelings need not expect sympathy from their profession as a whole. We notice that some of the Indian politicians now in England still affect to ignore the acuteness of the existing religious tension. They would do their country much better service if they would take the trouble to ascertain the facts, to trace the causes at work, and endeavour to remove or counteract them. It is the

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knowledge of continued religious bitterness which, more than any other factor in the situation, discourages those Englishmen who wish to see India go steadily forward, and they look, not for paper compromises drawn up by politicians, but for such effective work among the people that compromises of that sort may be rendered unnecessary.

The Sikhs and the People.

Religious harmony is wanted always and everywhere in India, but there is a peculiar demand for it in the Punjab at the present moment, so that the unusual tension there is all the more unfortunate. We believe that if the Hindus and Moslems were on even moderately friendly terms, the pressure of their joint opinion would have enabled the reasonable Sikhs to withstand the wild men who have brought their community into such general discredit. As things stand, however, Hindu and Moslem opinion may be said to cancel out, while the fomenters of disorder on each side look to the wilder Sikhs for support, so that these latter find themselves confronted only by the police, instead of by an irresistible volume of public opinion, with the police ready to assist in its expression. The cables have hinted recently that Sir Malcolm Hailey is going to tackle Sikh lawlessness in earnest, and, if the anticipation is correct, he will have behind him the good wishes of the friends of India on this side, but for practical purposes it would be much more to the point if he could count on a united Legislature in his own province, and we fear that is just what he cannot do.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Position of the Government.

Almost the only diversion that we have in politics nowadays is the weekly defeat of the Government, but as this is never over a question of "principle" (whatever that may mean), it is of undiscernible significance. It was Berkeley who said that there was no matter, and Byron who therefore asserted that it was no matter what he said; but in our time Mr Ramsay MacDonald acts well up to that philosophy, and it really seems impossible to catch the Government out on a real basis. Any catch that is made is, so to speak, from a no-ball.

This last week the Government were defeated on two issues—the London Traffic Bill and Housing. The first is of continual recurrence, and does not matter in the least, but the second, involving as it does the failure of Mr. Wheatley, is of much more vital importance. One says the failure of Mr. Wheatley, and not of Mr. Wheatley's plans, because the Government is so rich in plans and so poverty-stricken in agents of those plans. Mr. Wheatley was one of the Government's brightest stars, and now that he too is dimming we must, I suppose, prepare for a more general crepuscule. Dusk seems without much doubt to be gathering round the heads of the Government, and the one question that remains—and there is as yet no sign of its being answered—is which planet is strong enough to swim into our ken. The Conservative sun is still a-sleeping, and the Liberal moon shines in impossibly remote splendour.

What is loss to this Government is nobody's gain.

Die-Hards and Communism.

There was a little breeze in the House of Commons last week, when the mention of Communism brought Mr. Lansbury to his feet with a vehement denial of its general existence in this country. It is doubtless a silly notion which makes out that men cannot feel revolutionary, or, indeed, go out on unauthorised strike, unless they be Communists, and, in spite of the fact that Mr. Lansbury may perhaps as easily as anybody be deceived in the matter, one is bound to agree with him. The best way to make Communists in this country is to call such those who are not so yet.

The Die-Hards have had their chance since the War, and they badly messed it. It is, one is forced to conclude, a psychological affair. These ultra-Conservatives have a certain amount of intelligence and any amount of pluck, but their philosophy, founded as it is in false dogmas, is almost utterly puerile.

The Independence of Members.

Members of Parliament are getting quite concerned about their moral integrity. Not only are they getting what is sometimes extravagantly known as "busy" about the questionnaire nuisance, but now Mr. Hore-Belisha is stirring them to resist the appeal made by most constituencies for donations and subscriptions.

Everyone knows, of course, what a pest these subscription-hunters are, but the boot is not wholly always on one leg. If a sufficient number of votes is the return for the gift of, say, a cricket field, the member may be not unwilling to avoid public exposure of the worries to which he is afflicted. It is doubtful, in fact, whether members of Parliament have so much respect for their own creations, Acts of Parliament, that you can make them moral by them.

Real independence can descend upon members only when the party system and the caucus are abolished. Until this is done, all so-called reforms of abuses are but shams. Parliamentary self-respect cannot be very great until members think and act as their own brains tell them.

Licensing Reform.

Not only the sunshine and the general heat have been the causes of the past week's thirst, for the air has been full of talk of licensing. First there has been the Bill of the Bishop of Oxford. It has had a pretty severe handling in the hands of the critics. Englishmen as a whole are by no means convinced of the benefits of local option, for even in these after days the love of individual liberty is still very strong. The moderate manner in which this Bill has been introduced, with all its parade of impartiality, and of the need for getting all points of view represented, has not screened from people its true nature, which is that of a piece of class legislation, and a wolf of tyranny in the guise of a liberty-loving lamb.

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Without question the supporters of this Bill are sincere, and it is something to have made the problem a non-party one; but they simply do not understand the spirit of England.

The Public-house.

To the Bishop of Oxford men are saying, as in days past they used to say to the world in general, "Why should we drink but one day?" "Why should we drink but in one place?" and there were one or two events last week which were much more heartily observed than is the progress of the Bill in Parliament. One was the dinner of the Vintners' Company in London, at which was toasted the "immortal memory of our brother and benefactor, Benjamin Kenton," the first man to bottle beer for export. He was Master of the Company in 1776. One wonders how our overseas men fared before that time.

Another thing that brought gladness to these drab times was the announcement that Sir Arthur Cope had painted a sign for a public-house—the very thing that I was advocating last week. The Fellowship Inn has been opened at Catford, and it appears to be an ideal public-house, where a man can take his wife and children and his food and drink together. In other words, it will humanise our fundamental habits, which have recently been in danger of being forced into underground channels. This is true reform. Make the conditions of drinking decent and the decencies will be observed.

The Channel Tunnel.

Certain excitement was caused the other day by the Premier's announcement that the project of the Channel Tunnel, which was turned down in 1907 and again in 1914, is to be put before the Committee of Imperial Defence. Generally speaking, public opinion in this country seems to be in favour of such a tunnel, although it applauds Mr. MacDonald's wisdom in first submitting the issue to a body of strategic experts. It is a little difficult to see the objections that could be raised, except by those who are convinced that a long-standing agreement with France is impossible. Certainly none of the old arguments, such as the necessity of maintaining our isolation, is now of avail. If the scheme is started in the lifetime of the Labour Government, it will be a great feather in its cap.

Conscience and the Law.

It is unfortunate that during the régime of a Labour Government—some of whom developed during the War a strong tendency to make the dictates of "conscience" supreme—a case should arise which is in essence one of conflict between the course of the law and that of conscience. For Lord Haldane is pressing for the removal from the magistrates' bench of a certain East Riding magistrate who is also a "passive resister." The Lord Chancellor's contention—and to the ordinary mind it is unassailable—is that no man is fitted to administer the law who is not willing on all occasions to obey it. Some faint show of justification for the retention by the passive resister of his post has been made by a Liberal newspaper, which attempts to make out that because Lords Birkenhead and Carson once advocated resistance to the law, they should, correspondingly, be debarred from holding office under the Crown.

But two blacks do not make a white. It will be interesting to see how the Labour Government gets out of its difficulty. In all probability, it will do just what other Governments do in similar circumstances—that is, forget all about its foolish past.

America and Championships.

No one during the last week or so seems to have talked or read of anything but sport—golf, tennis, and cricket. And of the first two it is the saddest thing in the world to have to record that America looks like bagging the championships in both. In the golf, indeed, Hagen has already confirmed our worst fears, and the fact that Mr. Brookes, after an historical triumph over "hurricane" Mr. Hunter, has now gone under, leaves M. Lacoste alone to bar an American victory at Wimbledon. There is, unfortunately, no fluke about this; America patently deserves her victories.

ALTER EGO.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The British squadron arrived in Phaleron Bay on June 27.

The Metropolitan of Kieff has arrived in Jerusalem to regulate the affairs of the Church of Russia in the Holy Land.

The former head of the Albanian Government, Ahmed Zogu, arrived in Belgrade last Friday, accompanied by twelve officers and his secretary.

Chiraranjan Das, son of Mr. C. R. Das, who took part in the disturbances at Tarakeswar, has been sentenced to two months' imprisonment for obstruction.

The Afghan newspaper *Aman-ib-Afghan* announces the award of the Sardar-I Ala Medal by the Amir of Afghanistan to Colonel Humphrys, British Minister at Khost.

An agreement has been signed by Hungary and Yugoslavia according to which, as from July 1, the most favoured nation treatment regarding Customs tariffs shall be applied in all trade between the two countries.

Nousret Bey, who succeeds Dr. Adnan Bey, to whom he has been acting as legal adviser, has arrived in Constantinople to take up his position as representative of the Turkish Foreign Officer at the Porte.

Mr. Robert Campbell, of Rounton, Watford, Herts, chairman of the National Bank of India, Bishopsgate, E.C., left estate of the value of £240,101, with net personalty £233,197. The will was made on one side of a sheet of notepaper.

Gabriel Rabbat, a native of Damascus, who was convicted of forging in Vienna last December Bank of England notes for £515,000 sterling, has been sentenced to nine years' imprisonment by the Vienna Court. Three accomplices received shorter sentences.

The Armenian (Lord Mayor's) Fund, of 96, Victoria Street, S.W.1, has been nominated by the Government to be the official British Committee to receive money to be devoted to the settlement of Armenian refugees from Greece in the Republic of Armenia, Transcaucasia.

The Poetry Society has been notified by the Greek Government that Mr. Galloway Kyle, the society's representative at the Byron Centenary celebrations in Greece, has been created a Knight of the Order of the Redeemer as a token of appreciation of the Poetry Society and the important part taken in the Byron Commemoration.

The Secretary of State for India announces that no decision has yet been taken in regard to the reduction of Indian Army pensions, which was due on July 1. The eventual decision will have effect from that date, and meanwhile reductions are being made provisionally and subject to adjustment later. Notices are being issued by the India Office to all officers to whom this applies.

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The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Liubliana, June 18.

External Politics.

Events in Albania are to the fore in claiming public attention just now, and the Belgrade Press is taking the Government to task pretty sharply for being too slack in looking after Yugoslavia's interests. Whatever the internal causes of the Albanian revolution, one thing is certain, and that is that Ahmed Zogu's Government was friendly to Yugoslavia, whereas among his opponents are to be found the bitterest foes of that country, such as Bairam Tsuri, the leader of the irredentist Kossovo Committee. Moreover, many Yugoslavs believe that the insurgents are on the best of terms with the Bulgarian *komitaji*, and that they are supplied with arms and funds from Bulgaria. So now the Belgrade Press takes up the following line :—

A ring of enemies is being forged around Yugoslavia. At two points this ring has at one time given way. Once at the Bulgarian frontier, when Stamboliski carried out the conditions of peace with Yugoslavia; and again in Albania, under Ahmed Zogu. But then Italy took a hand and eliminated Stamboliski, just as she now aims at eliminating Ahmed Zogu by the revolution. Italy is, in fact, repeating the old policy pursued by Austria-Hungary towards Serbia; and therefore Yugoslavia in her turn is bound to repeat Serbia's policy towards Austria-Hungary. She must contemplate passing from the defensive to the offensive, and at every treaty with Italy be mindful of the fact that the latter is her chief enemy. This consciousness must be the keynote of Yugoslavia's policy. To every Great Power may economic concessions be granted, Italy alone excepted. For the same reason all Italian loans must be refused, and only British or French capital accepted.

Internal Politics.

The position remains unchanged. Within the Radical Party the adherents of a policy of conciliation towards the Croats are steadily gaining ground. And since M. Svetozar Pribitchevitch is the advocate of the so-called "strong hand" policy in dealing with all Opposition, the coalition with him is becoming more and more unpopular in the Radical Club. Even to-day a considerable majority of Radical deputies are probably opposed to it, but the authority of M. Pashitch, who is in favour of M. Pribitchevitch, is still predominant. How long the majority in the Radical Club will be silent is another matter, however, for it is becoming increasingly recalcitrant. This state of affairs shows quite clearly in the reconstruction of the Cabinet, which M. Pashitch is not able to achieve, despite all his authority.

Everything goes to show that the real solution can only be found in a Liuba Davidovitch-Yovanovitch Cabinet. Beyond a doubt the whole country would welcome this solution, because the great problems that Yugoslavia has to deal with can only be solved by following a middle course.

The Affray at Trbovlye.

The three young Nationalists who were killed in the unfortunate affray with Communists at Trbovlye on June 1 were given a public military funeral in Liubliana after lying in state for two days in the hall of the Narodni Dom. Sympathy with the victims was general, and the public missed no opportunity of showing it. The Communist victims were buried at Trbovlye. An inquiry is being made.

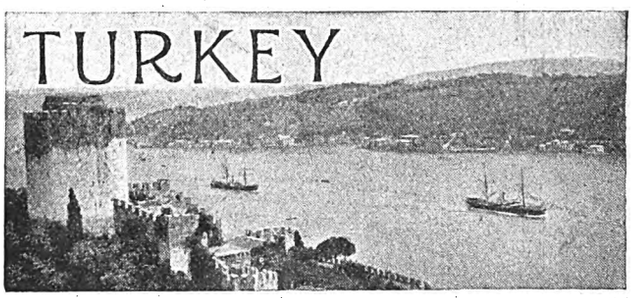
ALBANIA.

Tirana, June 27.

The New Government.

The excitement following the revolution has quickly died down, and Monsignor Fan Noli's Government seems well established. Ahmed Zogu and his band of followers have, as anticipated, crossed the frontier into Yugoslavia, and now there is no part of Albania outside the control of the Central Government. Manifestations and demonstrations of loyalty to the revolution are reported from every Prefecture, and great satisfaction is expressed throughout the country at the terms of the Government's programme (which is summarised elsewhere in this issue).

It remains to be seen how the new Government will fulfil its promises. One thing, at any rate, can be said. It starts on its work with better prospects of success than any previous Government since Albania became an independent State.



Constantinople, June 24

The Effect of the Weather.

The weather which has been spoiling the cricket at home has not been confined to the British Isles. Two weeks of the month of June here, which would normally be absolutely rainless, have been marked by a series of continuous and torrential downpours of rain mixed with hail, punctuated by terrific bursts of thunder and lightning. The results in the lower parts of this very hilly city, which requires a skilfully engineered drainage system and has to carry on without anything worthy of the name, have been disastrous, for torrents of water have flooded whole quarters and

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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rendered roads impassable. The effect upon the growing crops is difficult to estimate, as reliable information is difficult to come by, but serious floods in the Meander Valley have already been reported.

The unusual weather would appear to have tried the tempers of a good many people, for several instances of bad temper on a large scale have taken place. The other day there was a pitched battle between two parties of dock porters numbering about a hundred, which was waged merrily with revolvers and knives until a large force of police arrived on the scene. A few days later a gentleman of some fame as a pugilist in his quarter of Stamboul held up the tram service by attacking the driver, conductor, and an inspector on one of the trams, and then followed up his exploit by beating up the occupants of a police-station in the presence of a large crowd in the street outside, after which he quietly walked out and went home. The Minister of Public Instruction has chosen this moment to present an ultimatum to the Jewish schools proscribing the use of the French language as a subject and a medium of instruction and enjoining the use of Hebrew. It is difficult to decide whether he is acting from bad temper or a gently malicious sense of humour. On taking into consideration all the trouble endured as a result of the activities of Hebrew Nationalism in Palestine, Englishmen may find it difficult to repress a smile when they read the impassioned protests of the Oriental Jews against this action of the Turkish Government, but that will not blind us to the fact that the tendency of the measure is to lower the efficiency of the Turkish citizens and to alienate the good will of a valuable and useful section of the community which has always been distinguished by its loyalty to successive Turkish Governments. *Quem Deus vult perdere . . .*

Jerusalem, June 14.

Jewish Unemployment.

The Palestinian Zionist Executive announces a rapid decline of Jewish unemployment, with a consequent relaxing of the worry and strain felt in Zionist circles during the winter. When matters were at their worst, during last November, the registered unemployed numbered close on two thousand (a huge number bearing in mind the normally very limited industrial possibilities), whereas by the end of last month the numbers were between 300 and 400, including 200 in Jerusalem. "To a slight extent the improvement was due to the renewal of activity in the building trades. Chiefly, however, the problem of the unemployed was solved by the advent of the tobacco season, which has not only given opportunities for work for those in the country, but has also permitted the increase of Jewish immigration, which since then has been growing steadily from week to week." The estimated immigration during May is 900, thus equalling the state of things during the palmiest days of Jewish immigration in the winter of 1920-1. "In the spring work was energetically begun on tobacco plantations, which has increased considerably this year, and has yielded extensive possibilities of employment both for unemployed in the towns and of Chaluzim (Jewish immigrants), who were needed to meet the demand in this branch of agriculture. The tobacco work in its various branches is able to provide employment continuously for six to nine months in the year, income from this work giving a minimum living wage."

The Arab Congress.

No definite agenda have yet been published for the forthcoming Seventh Arab Congress, but from the innumerable recommended programmes in the Arab Press it is clear that this will differ from preceding congresses mainly in confining itself to home politics. And this is largely confirmed by a statement attributed to Mr. Sakhakini, the secretary of the Arab Executive, to the effect that the Seventh Arab Congress will discuss the question of radical changes to be made in the organisation work of the Executive :—"We shall follow the methods of the Zionist Organisation : we shall seek for assistance from the Arab world outside Palestine, raise funds by a 'Golden Book' [a Jewish roll of honour, in which names of well-known Jews are inscribed if a sufficient sum is subscribed for this specific purpose by their admirers], and other donations, and also make propaganda for an army as Mr. Jabotinsky does. We shall have departments : political, economic, educational, etc., as does the Zionist Executive, and our workers will be paid in order to enable them to devote all their time to the National Movement." For the rest, attention in Arab circles seems to be concentrating on the Palestinian Budget, the revised currency proposals, peasant taxation (which everybody, Arab and non-Arab, agrees is disproportionately heavy on the land cultivators), education (which is, apart from foreign philanthropic efforts, now almost exclusively in the control of the Government, whereas in pre-War days local bodies could play a considerable part), the Rutenberg Concession, of course (which is forging ahead, in spite of past Congress anathemas and resolutions), the Moslem Supreme Council (arousing much uneasiness in Arab circles owing to its indefinable position), and the need for properly and regularly re-elected municipalities (in which demand Jews and Arabs agree, each thinking that they are suffering from the present condition of things, in which mayors and town councillors are, I believe, usually nominees of the District Governors).

The New Peasant Party.

A new "Peasant Party" has just come into existence and announced its programme. It is

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quietist in its attitude to higher Palestinian politics, and aims only at improving the status and agricultural education of the peasant, and relieving him of some of his present burden of taxation. It also appeals to the Government to go ahead with the Legislative Council, authorised under the Palestine Constitution, and hitherto obstructed by organised Arab policy. These proposals come from the leading Arab landowners in the Hebron district (the first Peasant Party, formed about a year ago, hailed from Nablus). The Arab Press has declared war upon this new party and dubbed it a creation of the Zionists. Not only the Arab Executive, but also the "National Party" and the earlier "Peasant Party," have tabooed it because of its declared willingness to submit to the Balfour Declaration.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, June 11.

Report of the Treaty Committee.

The report on the Treaty, prepared by a special committee composed of one deputy from each *liwa* or province, strikes the casual reader as an extraordinary document, not only by reason of its remarkable length, but because of the unsophisticated manner in which it is drawn up The committee unanimously agrees that Iraq in her present state is in need of assistance and support from Great Britain, and that she can achieve economic and political development only by alliance with another Power. At the same time the members so alter and excise the clauses of the Treaty—that is to say, the terms on which England is prepared to furnish the assistance required by Iraq—as to suggest that they do not need any such support, or have entirely overlooked the fact that Britain is already spending £6,000,000 a year on Iraq, a sum almost twice as large as this country's total income. Again, the declaration that the people are prepared to make great sacrifices to safeguard their national sovereignty compares oddly with the reminder that England has not yet fulfilled all her wartime promises, and the plea that she will grant further favours—presumably for nothing. But though a perusal of the report may give opportunities for cynicism, the real state of Iraq demands sympathy. One sees a few ardent idealists striving their utmost to lead to complete independence a nation which is not only unable but unwilling to make the necessary sacrifices for the attainment of that end. Three centuries of Turkish misrule account both for the desire of the few for full independence and for the lethargy which makes the nation as a whole unwilling to shoulder the responsibilities entailed by it.

The report is too long to be dealt with in detail, but as the clauses which are subjected to the severest criticism are the financial ones, a few comments on this aspect of the Treaty may not be out of place. During the War the British Government spent vast sums on creating a port at Ma'gill, near Basra, on constructing railways throughout the country, on building bridges and roads, on installing telephones and telegraphs, and on excavating certain canals, for the purpose of feeding the Army and so saving sea transport. On the conclusion of peace all the above, though strictly war measures, became works of public utility, and as such the British Government intended, under the Treaty, to sell them to Iraq at a reasonable valuation, payable by instalments spread over about twenty years. The Treaty committee, on the other hand, claimed, not altogether without reason, that these works were undertaken with no other end in view than that they might bring nearer the attainment of victory. Similar works, they pointed out, were constructed in the war areas in Europe, and on the withdrawal of British troops were abandoned without any demand for payment. Hence, in view of the stringency of Iraq's financial position, the committee considered that Britain might well waive her claim to these works.

Another item is the share of the Ottoman Public Debt, which, by Section 46 of the Treaty of Lausanne, has to be borne by Iraq. This will saddle the country with an annual payment of about £450,000 for the next twenty years—by no means a small matter with a Budget in which receipts barely, if at all, exceed expenditure. Left to herself, Iraq would probably have repudiated her share, on the ground that the country has in no way benefited from the Ottoman Public Debt; hence the committee's opposition to her pledging herself to the payment of so large a sum at a time when money is most urgently needed for developing the agricultural resources of the country.

Iraq's financial difficulties also led the committee to object to the payment of half the cost of the High Commissioner's office and staff, and to suggest that the number of British officials employed by the Iraq Government should be reduced from 150 to 37. Besides the doubt whether the latter suggestion would lead to eventual economy, its enforcement would certainly add considerably to the great difficulty already experienced by the Iraq Government in finding suitable Iraq officials, at once competent and honest, to fill the senior administrative posts.

The High Commissioner, on a recent visit to the Constituent Assembly, stated that though amendments to the Treaty could not be considered at the present time, Iraq could rely, when once it had been ratified, on obtaining from Great Britain some modification of the financial clauses.

Public Opinion in Baghdad.

No further demonstrations have taken place in Baghdad during the past week, though there has been an undercurrent of excitement. Armed police are conspicuous, and occasionally a small crowd of hooligans and boys, headed perhaps by an anti-Treaty Deputy, will parade the streets, chanting some such refrain as "We will sever the hand of him who signs." Fear is at the bottom of these exhibitions, for the ignorant mob, incapable of understanding what the Treaty is about, have been misled by its opponents into believing that it is a device which will enable the English to interfere with the sanctity of Muslim homes.

Ratification of the Treaty.

For over ten weeks the Constituent Assembly has been unable to make up its mind whether to ratify or reject the Treaty. Some thought that it did not go far enough to meet the national aspirations of the people, others that it went too far by perpetuating the present form of native administration. Some wished by opposing it to embarrass the present Cabinet, others genuinely thought that some of its clauses were too severe, many hoped still to gain some personal end, while the only concern of others was to vote with the majority. Some three weeks ago a time-limit was fixed for the Assembly's deliberations on the Treaty—namely, midnight on June 10. The Assembly met on June 9 for, it was hoped, the last time as far as

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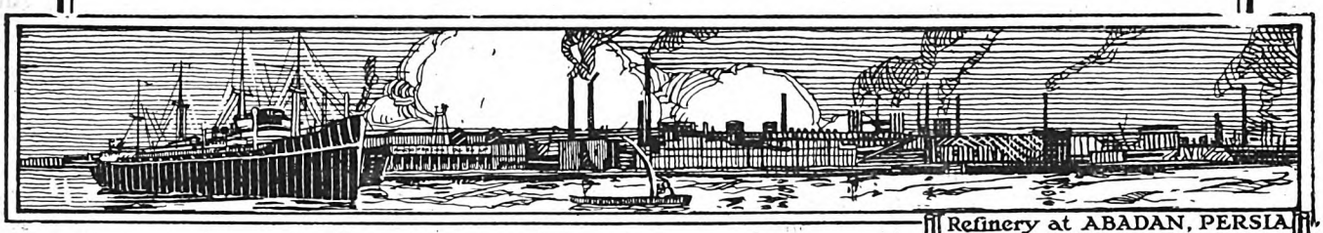

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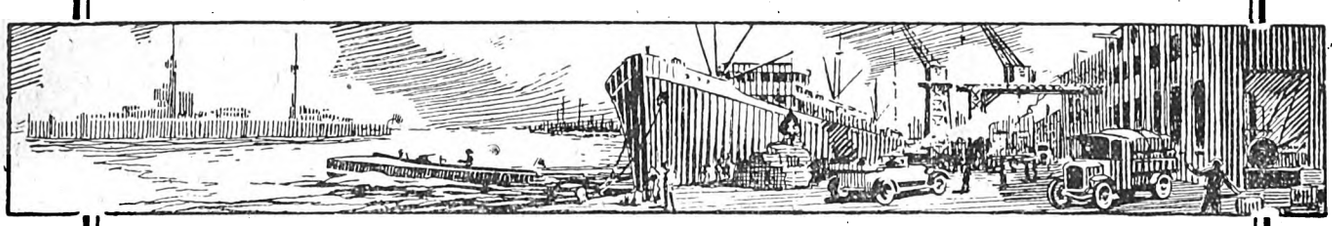

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the Treaty was concerned, but after an indecisive sitting the meeting was adjourned until the morning of June 10. A two hours' debate behind closed doors, and a further public discussion, only had the usual result—a postponement until the following day. Such a postponement, disregarding as it did the time limit, was regarded as tantamount to rejection. Meanwhile vigorous lobbying was taking place. A meeting of the Assembly was announced for 4 p.m. By 8 o'clock only thirty-two deputies had arrived, nineteen short of the necessary quorum of fifty-one. Motor-cars dashed in all directions hunting up recalcitrant deputies. By 10.30 a quorum had been formed and the discussion began. A resolution that consideration of the Treaty should be postponed until the Mosul question had been settled was rejected, as was also Yassin Pasha al Hashimi's motion to the effect that the Treaty should be accepted if the amendments proposed by the committee, of which he was President, were adopted *in toto*. Finally, on a motion supported by the Prime Minister and other members of the Cabinet, the Treaty was ratified, with 37 minutes to spare, by 36 votes to 25, eight members abstaining from voting. The form of the resolution, as it appeared in the *Baghdad Times*, is as under :—

This Assembly considers many of the clauses in the Treaty and the agreements so severe that Iraq cannot undertake the responsibilities of an ally such as is required from the Iraq people. But it relies upon and is confident in the honour of the British Government and the right dealing of the honourable British people, confident that they would not oppress the Iraq people, nor disregard their desires and Iraq's reliance upon Britain.

This feeling alone has caused Iraq to accept the explanations given to the Assembly by H.E. the High Commissioner, on behalf of the British Government; that is to say that, after the Treaty has been accepted, the Financial Agreement will be modified as soon as possible in the generous spirit for which the British people is famed.

Wherefore, the Assembly requests H.M. the King to ratify the Treaty, the Protocol, and the Agreements: provided that His Majesty shall, after the ratification, at once begin negotiations with the British Government, to gain the modifications proposed by the Committee of the Assembly. And this Treaty and its Agreements shall be invalid, if Great Britain does not protect Iraq's rights in the Vilayet of Mosul in its entirety.

The decision was received without excitement. The sole desire of the deputies is to return to their homes, regardless of the fact that the Organic Law has still to be ratified, as has also the Electoral Law for the new Parliament.

PERSIA.

Teheran, May 25.

Aeroplanes.

The past week might well be called "Aeroplane Week," for during it Teheran has seen more activity in the air than ever before. Early in the week two of the German biplanes, purchased in Russia, landed here, having taken about an hour and three-quarters to fly from Enzeli, a distance of well over 200 miles, and in the air they looked very like the normal British two-seater bombers, D.H.9A's, with the familiar Allied circular markings, adopted by the Persians, with an outer circle of green instead of blue. The body and rudder also have the lion and sun painted on them. Then two more German planes arrived, Junker monoplanes in aluminium, with accommodation for four passengers; and, lastly, one of the French planes, bought last year and landed in Bushire two or three months ago, arrived this morning from Luristan. This plane, in charge of one of the French pilots, left Ispahan (where it had landed previously after a non-stop flight from Bushire) last week, and was expected in Teheran, but breaking his compass over Kum the pilot lost his bearings and finally landed near Hamadan, from which place the military utilised it in Luristan in connection with the operations against the Lurs, at present being conducted in the neighbourhood of Burujird and Khorramabad.

This afternoon all roads led to Ghaleh Morghi, the aerodrome prepared on the plain two miles to the west of the town, on the site chosen for the British planes which came from Baghdad last summer. A notice published in the Press by the Ministry of War invited all and sundry to witness the flights of the five planes, and the Teheranis flocked out in their thousands to be present at what might be termed the inauguration of Persia's Air Force. On the road was a continual stream of cars, carriages, and pedestrians throughout the afternoon, and I have seldom before seen such a concourse of people in Teheran. The Prime Minister, who is also Minister of War, arrived on the ground about 3 p.m., and examined and inspected the aeroplanes, which were ranged up in a row at one end of the ground, on the north side of which a rough hangar has been constructed. Sardar Sepah appeared to take a lively interest in the planes, and spent some time examining them closely. Shortly after he had retired to the shade of one of the marquees erected on the ground for the spectators, the French aeroplane, a Breguet two-seater bomber, made the first flight, with the Chief of the Staff, General Amanollah Mirza, as a passenger. As soon as it landed, the second machine went up, and after each of the five had made flights they all took the air together, a sight which had never before been seen in Teheran. There was no lack of eager passengers for the few available seats, and the novelty of seeing the capital from the air seemed to be fully appreciated. Everything went off without a hitch, and the Ministry of War is to be congratulated on a very creditable exhibition. The Air Force should ultimately prove of great utility to the Army.

World-Flights.

Bushire, on the Persian Gulf, has been a landing place for the British, French, and Portuguese "world-flighters." The latter was detained there three days, as the Persian Government had not been advised, and consequently permission had not been given to the foreign airman to land on Persian soil.

While so many world-flights are in progress it is rather refreshing to come across a party of six Parsees, members of the Bombay Pioneers, who set out from Bombay last October with the intention of cycling round the world on "push bikes." They have just arrived here, and their route lies through Mesopotamia, Palestine, and Egypt, to Italy, through Europe to the United States, and thence back to India through Japan, China, and Burma.

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ZIONIST ORGANISATION.

On June 25 and 26 a garden fête was held, under the auspices of the Women's International Zionist Organisation, in aid of women's and children's welfare in Palestine, at Caen Wood Towers, Highgate, N.6 (by kind permission of Sir Robert and Lady Waley Cohen). The fête was opened by Mrs. James de Rothschild and Dr. Ch. Weizmann respectively, and Mrs. Philip Snowden and Sir Wyndham Deedes presided. The W.I.Z.O. is devoting its present efforts to the establishment of an agricultural farm school for girls at the Jewish colony at Nahalal.

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THE NEW ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT.

The following is a translation of the programme of the new Albanian Government telegraphed to the Albanian Legation in London by the Prime Minister, Archbishop Fan Noli :—

The destructive policy of the last Governments had created such despair in the country that insurrection and fratricide were at last the outcome. The results of the late Administration are a ruined budget with a large deficit, disorganisation of the State in all its departments, insecurity throughout the country, anarchy among the organs of the State, and the creation of personal powers outside and above those of the State, together with assassination and attempted assassination of citizens and foreigners. These uncontested facts had endangered the foundation of the country, discredited us at home and abroad, and cast a doubt in the mind of both Albanians and foreigners as to the capacity of our State to live. In order to crown the salutary work of the insurrection, and relying upon the confidence placed in us by the people, we accepted the heavy burden of directing the affairs of the State entrusted to us by the High Council of Regency, and hereby do promise to our people by the application of the following programme the gradual recovery from the critical state created by the destructive work of our predecessors :—

The general disarmament of the population without exception.

The establishment of tranquillity, order, and sovereignty of the law.

To exalt the authority of the State over any personal and extra-legal power.

To uproot feudalism, free the people, and establish democracy definitely in Albania.

To introduce radical reforms in all branches of the administration both civil and military.

To simplify the organisation of the bureaucracy, to retrench, and to purify the administration; besides ability and morality, the patriotism of individual employees shall be taken into account.

The security of the rights of the employees and the determination of their responsibilities shall be established by a special law.

To organise the communes so as to improve the conditions of villages and villagers, granting to the latter wide powers in local affairs.

To balance the budget by radical economies.

To modify the system of collecting taxes in a manner favourable to the people.

To ameliorate the condition of the farmers so as to ensure their economic independence.

To facilitate the introduction of foreign capital, protect and organise the wealth of the country.

To raise the prestige and the credit of the country abroad.

To grant real independence to the tribunals.

To introduce judicial reforms.

To construct new roads and bridges and take special care of means of communication throughout the country.

To organise the sanitary conditions of the country in order to combat the diseases which ravage the population.

To organise the department of education on modern and practical lines so that the schools should produce capable citizens, good patriots, and able workers.

To entertain friendly relations with all the States, and particularly with those of the neighbouring countries.

On the return of normal conditions we shall appeal to the country at a general election, and by secret and direct and entirely free vote the people shall give their verdict in regard to our action, to which verdict we are prepared to bow.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

SPORT IN ASSAM.

"Sport and Service in Assam and Elsewhere." By Lieut.-Colonel Alban Wilson, D.S.O. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 18s.)

The greater portion of Colonel Alban Wilson's book is descriptive of shooting and fishing in the Province of Assam, where the author was for many years an officer in a Gurkha regiment. His "service" was, one gathers, in the nature of interludes among a long series of shikhar trips, during which he shot specimens of most of the big game in which the North-Eastern Province abounds, and also of much small game—particularly duck, geese, snipe, and woodcock. He claims that "Assam undoubtedly offers the best and most varied *mahseer* fishing in India," and certainly he took full advantage of his opportunity of enjoying it.

It is difficult to discover whether Colonel Wilson intended his book to be of use to other sportsmen, or merely a record of his own achievements; if the former, it may prove rather tantalising, for often insufficient information is given on how, when, and where to shoot or fish to be of real value. For instance, one would like to have known the name of the river in which the *sobedar* caught the 49½ lb. *mahseer;* and again and again one's curiosity to know exactly what rifles, guns, and cartridges were used has to go unsatisfied. Now and then, however, one is grateful for the hints given, such as, for example, the danger of using too small bore a rifle for elephant shooting, and the general insufficiency of single wire traces for *mahseer* fishing.

The unexpectedness of political comments in a book of this character causes them to be read all the more closely, and one can scarcely congratulate the author upon their inclusion. He complains, for instance, that the deterioration in the duck shooting of Assam is due to "the success of the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms in stirring up racial feeling"; and one wonders whether this is really the case, or whether, by the exercise of a little tact and with a knowledge of the vernacular, the necessary assistance cannot be obtained from the boatmen as before. Again, the lurid picture of what would happen if the British left India was surely superfluous here. And it is extremely regrettable that he should have indulged himself in the remark that "all Orientals seem to be naturally cruel," particularly in view of the fact, demonstrated by Colonel Wilson's own admissions in this book, that he would not seem to have been in a position always to criticise the conduct of others.

Of Colonel Wilson's knowledge of Indian customs we may single out, as being of the most general interest, his reference to the wearing of the ring by the Tongkhul Nagu. It is a fascinating subject, which has been dealt with, with perhaps more discretion, in an appendix of Hodson's "Naga Tribes of Manipur." Colonel Wilson would appear to be definitely wrong in his explanation of this ring, the wearing of which with these tribesmen was probably equivalent to the assumption of the *toga virilis*.

However, in spite of certain defects that we have ventured to point out, Colonel Wilson's book is decidedly interesting. He includes some beautiful photographs, especially those of river scenery.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

July 3, 1924 (New Style).
June 20, 1924 (Old Style).
Julkaada 30, 1342, A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Tamuz I, 5684, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Aga Khan has left the Ritz Hotel for the Continent.

The Persian Minister has returned to London from Paris.

Prince Karamjit Singh of Kapurthala has left the Savoy Hotel for Paris.

Sir Herbert Samuel left Jerusalem last week for England on three months' leave.

The Raja of Pudukota, after making a short stay in Paris, has returned to London.

General Sir Walter Congreve, the new Governor, arrived at Malta on June 29, and took the oath of office and allegiance.

General Sir Claud Jacob (Chief of the General Staff, India) had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on June 27.

Major-General Sir Lee Stack, Governor-General of the Sudan and Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, had audience of the King at Buckingham Palace last Saturday morning.

It is announced in the *Gazette* that Lord Willingdon, upon whom a Viscounty was recently conferred, has taken the title of Viscount Willingdon, of Ratton, in the County of Sussex.

Major Duncan McCallum, until recently British Liaison Officer with the French High Commissioner in Syria, is due to arrive in London during the first half of this month on leave, after four years' service in Syria. He was associated with Mr. Norman Nairn in the determination of the motor route across the desert to Baghdad.

Mrs. Charles Hancock and Major C. G. Hancock gave a small luncheon party last Friday at the Automobile Club. Among those present were the Persian Minister, the Minister of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and Madame Gavrilovitch, the Greek Minister, Sabit Bey, and Mme. Sabit, of the Egyptian Legation.

The King has granted authority for the wearing of the insignia of the following decorations:—Order of the Nile.—Second Class.—Mr. William Duncan Lund Roberts, Inspector-General of Irrigation, Sudan Government. Fourth Class.—Mr. Tomlin Joyce Campbell, Chief Inspector, Survey of Egypt.

The marriage arranged between Major Arthur Walter Barratt, K.S.L.I., Reserve, late Assistant Military Attaché to Roumania, elder son of the late Mr. Walter Edward Barratt, and Mrs. Barratt, of Linley Hall, Bishop's Castle, Shropshire, and Frances Erskine, youngest daughter of the late Charles Cuningham Scott, and of Mrs. Scott, of Halkshill, Largs, Ayrshire, will take place at 2.30 p.m. on July 8 at Holy Trinity, Sloane Street.

The annual dinner of the Anglo-Egyptian Association will be held at Prince's Restaurant, Piccadilly, on Thursday, July 10. Viscount Milner, K.G., will preside, and ladies are invited to attend. The dinner is open to past and present officials and non-official British residents in Egypt and the Sudan. Applications for tickets (13s. 6d., exclusive of wine) should be made immediately to J. F. G. Hopkins, 12, Holborn Viaduct, E.C.1.

The annual luncheon and reunion of the Aligarh Muslim University Association, London, was held at the Savoy Hotel, June 25. The guests included the Right Hon. Syed Amir Ali (president of the association), the Hon. Mr. S. Aftab (vice-chancellor), the Right Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, Sir Ali and Lady Imam, Sir Shadi Lall, Lord and Lady Meston of Agra, Lord Olivier, Sir Mohamed Rafique, Sir E. Dennison Ross, Sir Dadiba M. Dalal, Mr. Imtiaz Mohamed Khan (hon. secretary), Dr. Wali Mohamed, Sir Thomas and Lady Arnold, and Sir Arthur Shipley.

The following officers were present at the dinner of the Central India Horse, which was held last Friday at the Cavalry Club:—Major-Generals W. A. Watson, A. J. Douglas, and J. B. Edwards, Brigadier-Generals H. B. Birdwood and C. G. Hoare, Air Commander D. G. Pitcher, Squadron-Leader Sir Norman Leslie, Colonels Sir Neville Chamberlain, F. C. Grant, D. H. Cameron, the Hon. H. Napier, A. H. O. Spence, W. D. Daunt, A. P. Browne, A. Hewlett, and A. M. Kettlewell, Majors J. Pinney, W. B. White, Sir T. Lawson Tancred, and G. Henderson, Captains M. Cox and R. George, and Mr. H. Taylor.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. William Carr, I.C.S., to be a Puisne Judge of the Burma High Court, in succession to the late Mr. Justice H. E. McColl, I.C.S.

Mr. Robert Arthur Graham, C.S.I., has been appointed a member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Madras, in succession to Sir Charles George Todhunter, K.C.S.I., who has resigned.

Mrs. Annie Besant has been appointed Kamala Lecturer at Calcutta University for the current year.

Mr. Pierre Crabites, an American judge in Cairo Mixed Tribunals, has been run over by a tramcar. His right foot has been amputated; and he is standing the shock well.

Some anxiety is felt about the health of Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu, Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University.

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THURSDAY, JULY 3, 1924.

THE SUDAN ISSUE.

It is a fundamental law of dynamics that to every action there is an equal and contrary reaction, and occasionally it happens that the law is applicable to the political sphere. A little more than two years ago an arrangement was made between Egypt and Great Britain by which, at a suitable time, negotiations were to take place between the two Governments in regard to four clearly defined subjects. As an opportune moment for the discussions seemed to have arrived, an invitation was sent to Zaghloul Pasha to come to London for a friendly conference with Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, with whom he is personally acquainted. The subjects to be discussed had two years ago been "reserved," as it was recognised by both parties that they were not at that time easy of adjustment; and it seemed reasonable to suppose that a solution would present fewer difficulties when a better understanding prevailed between the two countries. Of the improved feeling between Egyptians and British a few months ago there could be no doubt, and for the success of the negotiations—by which is meant that agreement satisfactory to both sides should be reached—it was only necessary that nothing should be done in the interval before the Conference opened in London to impair the good relations. Unfortunately the invitation to Zaghloul Pasha let loose a flood of oratory in the Egyptian Assembly which, unless dammed at the outset, could only produce the equal and contrary reaction familiar to the world of dynamics. Nothing would have been simpler than for the Egyptian Prime Minister to have refused to be drawn on any single subject that was to form an item of discussion in London. It would have been a straightforward, dignified course to adopt, entirely in keeping with diplomatic usage and, indeed, with the dictates of ordinary courtesy. Instead of adopting this plan, Zaghloul Pasha has seemingly allowed a large part of the time at the disposal of the Legislature to be devoted to frenzied but purposeless discussion of the pending negotiations and the questions involved, and has sought to make good his political position at home by proving himself as uncompromising as the most irresponsible extremist among his followers.

Little or no attention would have been paid in Great Britain to anything that the rank and file of the Nationalist or any other party in Egypt said; but it was liable to give rise to misunderstanding—quite apart from any consideration of national dignity—if the British Government took no notice of the strange attitude adopted by the Egyptian Prime Minister. He had been invited to negotiate. He chose, however, to inform his followers and the world at large, in effect, that he was going to England not to negotiate, but to dictate. Some allowance must always be made for misconceptions arising from inadequate translations from one language to the other, and an isolated remark here or there would not have been regarded as unnecessarily provocative. The cumulative effect of Zaghloul Pasha's speeches over many weeks, while the British Government has awaited his reply to an invitation, must, however, be regarded as having, in the opinion of the British Government, left it no alternative to a pointed reminder that there are clearly defined boundary lines in the dealings between nations which international courtesy does not allow to be crossed, as well as limits to Britain's good-humoured tolerance. A superfluous "interview" in a German paper, the outbreak in Omdurman of disturbances engineered by outside agents, and another provocative speech in the Egyptian Assembly provided the British Government with its opportunity. After an impressive utterance in the House of Lords by Lord Grey, who called upon the Government for a definite pledge that Britain would not abandon the Sudan, Lord Parmoor, on behalf of the Government, stated that the Government were not going to abandon the Sudan in any sense whatever. They recognised, he continued, the obligations which had been undertaken toward the Sudanese, and regarded those obligations as of such a character that they would not be abandoned by Great Britain without very serious loss of prestige. This statement has since been confirmed in weighty words by the Prime Minister himself.

If at any time the Egyptian Prime Minister has committed himself to the statement that he would immediately break off the negotiations if the British Government did not at the outset agree to his demand for the complete evacuation of the Sudan, the two statements could hardly fail to bang, bolt, and bar the door to all negotiations. Zaghloul Pasha has apparently appreciated the awkwardness of his position, and, after receiving the unanimous support of the Assembly, presented the resignation of the Cabinet to King Fuad, who refused to accept it. It would be a grave misfortune for Egypt if the negotiations did not take place. There are still one or two points that have to be settled by negotiation with Great Britain to round off the independence of Egypt. By no stretch of the imagination can the Sudan be regarded as one of these; that the condominium must be reconsidered in the light of the independence of Egypt is admitted, but the present system has worked satisfactorily for the last twenty years, to the manifest advantage of Egypt, and might continue for a further period without harm to any of the three parties concerned. There is, therefore, nothing to be gained by delaying the complete independence of Egypt for the sake of political aims, whether Egyptian or British, in the Sudan. For the moment, however, the point at issue is the seemly conduct of negotiations. The condominium in the Sudan rests on a Convention between Egypt and Great Britain. If it is to be modified, this must be done by mutual consent, and not by the hurling from Cairo of charges and abuse at the British. We can well imagine that, if there had been no public discussion of the subject in Egypt, Zaghloul Pasha's presentation of the Egyptian claims in regard to the Sudan might have impressed the British Prime Minister, and some workable compromise might have been evolved. As things are, the forceful insistence, before the negotiations, upon Egypt's rights in the Sudan has caused the British Government to be urged on all sides to yield no ground, and the chances of a compromise become remote. It is not too late, however, for Zaghloul Pasha to change his tactics. Both parties have been goaded into utterance; but that is no reason why the negotiations should not take place and should not be conducted on amicable and sensible lines.

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THE REPARATIONS COMMISSION IN BULGARIA.

Early in May the question of the future of the Inter-Allied Commission for Bulgarian Reparations was raised in the House of Lords. The spokesman of the Government pointed out that, although the most difficult part of its task had been accomplished, the labours of the Commission could not be regarded as over; attention, however, was being paid to administrative economy, and it was hoped that the cost of the Commission to Bulgaria for 1924 would be within £16,000, representing a reduction of more than 50 per cent. on previous annual charges. At that time a meeting of the Commission was due to be held at an early date in Paris, and it was anticipated that a formal decision would then be taken to effect the necessary alterations in the composition of the Commission in Sofia with a view to reducing its cost to £16,000 a year. When that meeting took place, however, unexpected difficulties appear to have arisen. Neither the French nor the Italian delegation had welcomed the British proposal to reduce the cost of the Commission. but in the absence of any valid reason for continuing to mulct Bulgaria in an unnecessarily heavy charge they could not oppose the scheme. When the meeting took place in Paris a noticeable change had come over the attitude of the French and Italian delegates. Instead of challenging the reduction of the Commission, they favoured such drastic changes that there would inevitably result a complete break in the continuity of the work accomplished by the Commission during the last three years. Such a proposal was entirely foreign to the British idea, and would have courted the risk of undoing much of what the Reparations Commission in Sofia has been able to accomplish, both in the interests of Bulgaria and to its own credit.

As a result of three years' working there is abundant evidence that the Commission has come to be regarded in Bulgaria as a friendly and useful link with the outside world, and much of, if not all, the resentment not unnaturally entertained at first against a foreign institution imposed to supervise the fulfilment of certain peace conditions has vanished. Apart from the fact that through the agency of the Commission the amount of the indemnity that Bulgaria had to pay under the Treaty of Neuilly has been considerably reduced, and the cost of the military occupation of the country has been settled by mutual agreement, the Bulgarians are indebted to the Reparations Commission for an invaluable piece of legislation. At its instance the Government introduced into the Sobranje, and passed, a law prohibiting the issue of paper money above a certain amount (the figure recommended by the Commission) without the consent of the Commission. The effect of this measure has been to introduce some measure of stability into Bulgarian exchange, and certainly to prevent the financial collapse experienced by other ex-enemy States. The service rendered to the country by this self-denying ordinance is to-day appreciated by the thinking section of the Bulgarian nation and its indebtedness to the Commission acknowledged. Another salutary measure brought about by the latter was the abolition of the Grain Consortium, which had proved a serious handicap to the export trade. In these circumstances it will be readily understood that Bulgaria by no means shares the view of Lord Newton, who raised the matter in the House of Lords last May, that the Reparations Commission is merely an imposition on Bulgaria, of which she is now entitled to be relieved. It may be true that no Bulgarian Government wishes to pay £36,000 a year for a service that it can obtain for £16,000, and if it were offered choice between a Commission costing the latter amount and one costing £8,000 a year, it might feel obliged to choose the cheaper. It would, however, be unnecessarily invidious to submit such a choice to any Government. The pertinent fact is that the Bulgarian Government does not make any official protest against the continued existence of the Commission; but unofficially is prepared to subscribe to its utility to the country.

With the active encouragement of the Commission the Bulgarian Government has succeeded in balancing its Budget. The task has proved sufficiently onerous to justify the suggestion—with which the Bulgarians will not hesitate to agree—that for the next few years it will prove invaluable to the country to have an outside stimulus working for budgetary equilibrium whatever party may be in power. A second sphere of usefulness for the Commission, in the interests of Bulgaria herself, will be to see that no attempt is made to repeal or to evade the provisions of the Law dealing with the banknote issue, to which reference has already been made, and generally to give the country the benefit of the Allied Powers' experience in matters of finance. Further, there is ample scope for the Commission to play an important part in the development of the country; for it will be readily understood that for any reproductive enterprise which secured the endorsement of the Inter-Allied Commission Bulgaria would stand a much better chance of obtaining financial help in the money markets of London, Paris, and Rome than she would if she could not rely upon the backing of such a body.

It stands to reason that, for the Commission to play the part indicated above, it must continue to command the authority and respect that it has had in the past, and also to have at its disposal as much as possible of the experience gained during the last three years. The first effect of the drastic reductions now urged by the French and Italian delegations would be to render this impossible. Already they have shown a curious lack of appreciation of the rôle that the Commission has attempted to fill by allowing their seconds-in-command to give up their posts shortly before the time arrives for the chief delegate of each country to resign. If this course were adopted by the British delegation as well, there would be a break of continuity in the Commission's labours. Moreover, for the sum which it is now proposed by France and Italy to charge Bulgaria, it might be possible, having regard to the scale of salaries ruling in the respective countries, to obtain the services of a French and

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an Italian official of the standard considered adequate by their Governments for the future work of the Commission; but it is certain that the amount would not be sufficient to attract any British official of the right standing.

For the present, as far as is known, the whole question remains in suspense. The Reparations Commission has presumably reported its differences to the Council of Ambassadors, with whom will rest the next step. In view of the statement on its behalf in the House of Lords, it is to be hoped that the British Government will consider that its honour is involved in the matter, and that it will spare no pains to persuade the French and Italian Governments to its own way of thinking. As both their chief delegates were known to be in favour of an indefinite prolongation of the Commission in its original composition, it is difficult to find any adequate explanation of the sudden desire to cut down the Commission to a point incompatible with its continued usefulness to Bulgaria; for it is not to be supposed that any Government in similar circumstances would allow its action to be prompted by mere pique or a desire to "score off" the Power that had been the first to suggest an act of justice to Bulgaria. The improved relations between the British and French Governments afford an opportunity of settling the question satisfactorily, with due regard to the fact that well-informed opinion in Bulgaria recognises that the money it will be called upon to pay for an efficient Commission in the future will be money well spent. In the event of any further delay in a settlement it will not pass unnoticed in Bulgaria that the French and Italian Governments retain their original chief delegates in Sofia, and that the cost of the Commission for 1924 will, therefore, be considerably over the £16,000 to which Great Britain has been trying to reduce it.

The Government has taken Mrs. Arthur Sassoon's house in Albert Gate, Knightsbridge, for the reception of Ras Tafari, the Prince Regent of Abyssinia, who will shortly be the guest of this country.

The work of repairing the Yawuz, formerly the German cruiser Goeben, at Constantinople has been postponed because two of the most favourable tenders, one British and one German, both demanded an outlay greater than allowed in the Budget. It is expected that a Bill authorising increased credits will be laid before the Angora Assembly when it meets in the autumn.

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MOSLEM HOLY PLACES.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—With reference to the paragraph on "Moslem Holy Places," in your Palestine letter, in to-day's issue, I am glad to see that this matter is being aired. Agitation against the irritating charge for admission is well justified.

Apart from its religious associations for others as well as Moslems, it is the beauty spot of the Holy City, and one which, I feel sure, both residents and visitors who enjoy a prolonged stay in Jerusalem desire to visit frequently. It was my good fortune to be in the latter category a few months ago, both prior to and at the beginning of the tourist season, and the introduction of this new "regulation" nearly involved me in serious consequences.

I write regulation in inverted commas because the pamphlet which is thrust before one on entering does not, or did not at that time (early in March last) specify a regular charge for admission, but merely stated the price of the booklet, 15 P.T. Believing this to be a new kind of Oriental extortion, I remonstrated, and after a little parley was allowed access. I had been in the sacred precincts about five minutes when I was accosted by a fanatical water-carrier demanding my "ticket." This not being forthcoming, he became excited and threatening, and a scuffle was only avoided by the providential arrival of a policeman who happened to be well known to me.

I understand that after the War access to the Haram was permitted freely, but that restrictions were gradually introduced culminating in this last, and one expects sooner or later to hear that admission will be prohibited altogether.—I am, etc.,

A CORRESPONDENT.

A CYPRUS TELEGRAM.

We have received the following telegram, dated June 23, from the Greek Press Bureau, Limassol, Cyprus:—"The Home Government, in answering the Archbishop, rejected all the claims submitted by Cyprus in the last memorial. Great disappointment is felt throughout the island."

The Emir Abdullah of the Transjordan left Amman on June 27 on pilgrimage to Mecca.

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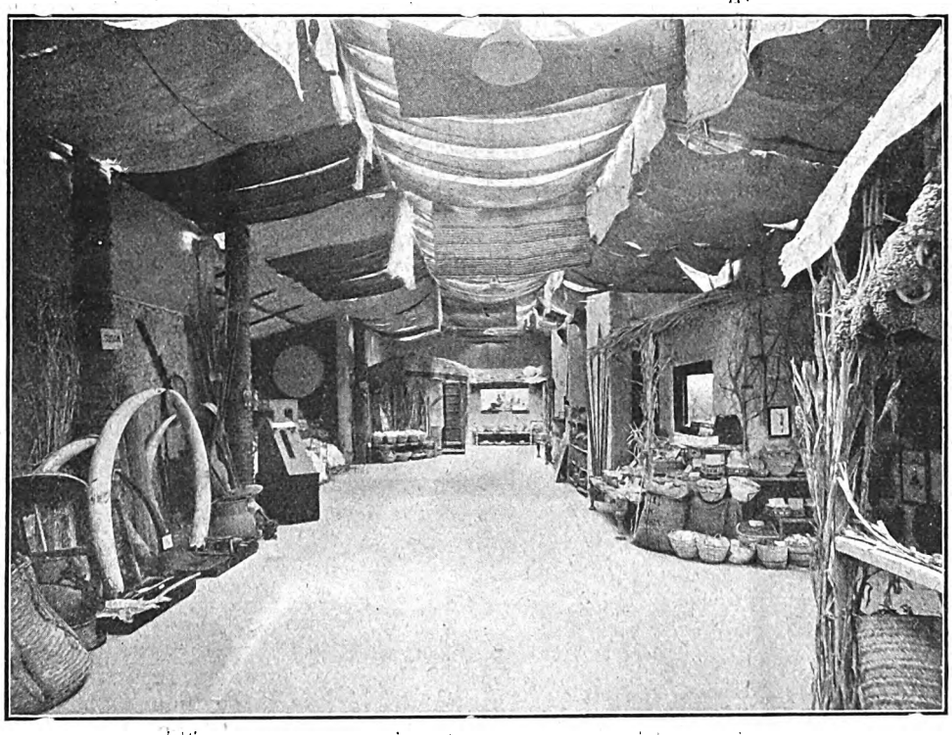
The Sudan at the Exhibition.

THE RESOURCES OF THE SUDAN.

An Interesting Display.

The Sudan Court in the East African Pavilion at Wembley strikes a note uniquely its own. It is like nothing else in the Exhibition. In some of the pavilions it is difficult not to come away with the impression that there are too many exhibits. That cannot be said of the Sudan Court, where the products of the country have been set out in such a way that it is possible to see everything without difficulty. One would not look, of course, for stands packed with exhibits, such as are to be seen elsewhere, for the Sudan's products are relatively few in number, though of great importance, and the country is still, so to speak, on the threshold of its development. But the exhibits make a brave show, and, as a result of their extremely good arrangement, will go a long way towards educating people with regard to the products and possibilities of the Sudan. The principal products of the country include, of course, gum, cotton, oilseeds, hides and skins, dura, and ivory, and the full range of them can be seen in the court on stands, behind each of which is an illuminated scene depicting some aspect of the economic life of the country. It would be difficult to praise these scenes too highly. They are quite the outstanding feature of the Court, and are, indeed, one of the things that those who go to Wembley ought not to miss, whatever else they have to omit. Their inclusion gives the Court the atmosphere of the country, and is certainly a most praiseworthy innovation. Vividly realistic and charmingly executed, it is small wonder that many visitors linger looking at them a long time.

It would be difficult to find an apt parallel in British history for the rapid economic advance of the Sudan. Certain it is that in that country British administration and British enterprise have secured a success which will bear comparison with any similar achievements elsewhere. In the Sudan it has been a question of building practically *ab initio*, and in a relatively brief space of time really remarkable results have been achieved. It is an axiom that trade follows the development of communications, and the history of the British connection with the country is one long record of ceaseless endeavour in this direction. Besides the work of extending the Kassala Railway, undertaken some time ago with the object of serving a cotton-growing region of great potential importance, a scheme is under consideration for the linking up of the



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Kassala-Gedaref line with the Makwar line, in which junction, as pointed out elsewhere, it is proposed to make the new dam serve as a bridge. The development of communications and of agriculture may be said to have gone hand in hand, for it has been the requirements of the country's staple industry which have, of course, determined the extension of railways and roads. In a country with centuries of civilisation behind it, it is a feasible proposition to develop communications in any reasonable place and leave it to the surplus population to justify their existence, but not so in a region like the Sudan, where new railways and irrigation projects must naturally be determined by the potential productivity of the regions they are destined to serve. Policy, in a word, must be utilitarian to succeed, and the statistics of the Sudan over the last decade afford the best possible proof of the correctness of the methods pursued. It would still be incorrect to say that we have made the waste places of the Sudan "blossom like the rose"; it could be said with truth that they are within measurable distance of doing so. Whatever objections may be raised elsewhere to cotton as a staple crop, there is no question that it is suited to the Sudan, and that it promises, under favourable conditions, to be an abundant success there and to bring to the country wealth that it could not obtain through any other medium.

The valid objection may always be raised that statistics covering the last fifteen years are unreliable as data because of the incidence of the war years, and because subsequently inflated prices give the returns a wholly misleading significance. No one would wish to overlook, or to underestimate, either of these factors, but if the even tenour of statistics over a period has suffered serious dislocation on this account, it cannot be maintained that the figures of the Sudan, taken as a whole, and making allowances for the effects of the war, can justly give rise to any other than an optimistic conclusion with regard to the future of the country. Where a country depends on agriculture with all its vicissitudes, and to a growing extent on a crop so subject to fluctuations as cotton, it goes without saying that the trade returns will be liable to vary to a greater extent than in the case of a country which mainly looks for its exports to manufactures or to commodities whose prices are more or less stabilised. Up to 1914 the figures for the commerce of the Sudan disclosed a fairly regular progress, while the "boom" years of 1918 to 1920 saw all previous figures easily surpassed, both as regards imports and exports. The inevitable depression followed, and for 1922 the imports amounted in value to only double those of 1913 at £E4,252,890, while the exports were valued at £E1,993,436, as compared with £E1,105,186. The figures for last year, however, made a much improved showing, and suggest, in short, that as far as the Sudan is concerned, the worst of the trade depression has been overcome, and that henceforward, given the maintenance of satisfactory prices for cotton (as to which for the next few years, at any rate, there seems little doubt), a rapid expansion of the trade returns may be looked for. The figures for 1923 have, of course, appeared in these columns, but it is of interest to recall them. Imports were valued at £E4,669,004 and exports at £E2,562,091, the adverse balance of trade being thus considerably less than in 1922. With the development of cotton production it will probably not be many years before this feature gives place to a favourable balance, but the period will naturally depend very largely on new works of development that may be undertaken entailing vastly increased imports in the shape of machinery, etc.

Cotton is, of course, the predominant feature in the Sudan Court, as it ought to be, not on account of the present production of this commodity, but because of the outlook for the future, since, if present indications go for anything, the Sudan is going to be one of the countries that count as regards cotton growing. If Lancashire is ever to reach a position approaching independence of the American crop it is likely to be in the main through what happens in the Sudan. Four models depict developments in regard to cotton growing that are now going on in the country, two of them being large scenic models. One shows the Sennar Dam and the other illustrates work in the cotton fields in the Gezireh. A scale model of the dam and a small model of one of the sluice gates are also on view. There are also numerous examples of cotton and cotton seed from the different areas, while a pleasing note is given to the exhibition by the specimens of cotton plants that are shown.

Gum arabic comes mainly from the Sudan, about three-quarters of the amount utilised in certain manufactures hailing from that country. The export of this commodity amounted in 1922 to 14,569 tons, while the output in 1923 was in the region of 23,000 tons. Well over fifty varieties of gum arabic are shown, while the collection and the sale of gum at El Obeid are illustrated by a model. Another interesting model shows a dura market. Dura, the principal food grain, may be practically described as a rain crop. This commodity ranks next to gum and cotton in the export trade. In the best year on record 80,000 tons were exported, and it is of interest to note that Great Britain is an importer on a considerable scale. The value of the exports in 1921 was £E235,283, and in 1922 £E240,444. A distant view of Port Sudan, the principal centre of the trade of the country, is

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shown in a model depicting a group of "Fuzzi Wuzzies" in the foreground, the port being in the far distance. Mention must also be made of the full-sized section of a Sudan Government Railway sleeping-car which is on view, a very modest reminder of the important part played in the Sudan by the excellent railway system and its worthy colleague, the river steamship service.

In addition to the products mentioned above, the exhibits include beeswax, castor seed, dates, fibres, ground nuts, ivory, senna, pepper, rice, sheepskins, sesame, and wheat, and even this lengthy list does not exhaust the exhibits of this character that are to be seen. There are also samples of the minerals that are found in the Sudan, and here, too, there is occasion for surprise at the variety. There is copper ore from Hofrat en Nahas, gypsum from Rawaiya, gold ore from Gabait, and gold (ring shaped) from Roseires, also limestone, ironstone, salt, graphite, and loess clay. Truly it is a goodly list. Then examples are shown of the timbers that are produced in the Sudan, such as mahogany, ebony, and a host of others whose names would be unfamiliar. There are also exhibits of silverware from Omdurman, bedsteads and stools, elephant and giraffe hair bangles, and basketwork. A touch of colour is added by specimens of the bird life of the country, and by the heads of game that are on view. Among the curios shown may be mentioned spears and guns from the battlefield of Omdurman and some Shilluk spears, while the interesting exhibits of antiquities include faience cups from the Nuri pyramids, Ethiopian and Meroitic beads, Kerma bronzes, and black-topped red ware cups. Pictures and photographs also play their part in an exhibition which gives a notable record of the Sudan as it is to-day and of its potentialities.

This review of the exhibits of the Sudan would be incomplete without mentioning the financial support the Sudan exhibit has received from the following:—Messrs. S. Pearson and Son, Ltd., the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Ltd., the Nile Congo Divide Syndicate, Ltd., Messrs. James Laing, Son and Co., Ltd., Messrs. Ransomes and Rapier, Ltd., Messrs. McCorquodale and Co., Ltd., Messrs. A. Joenssen Co. (Inc.), the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, the National Bank of Egypt, Messrs. Contomichalos, Darke and Co., Ltd. (also free handling and forwarding of exhibits at Port Sudan and Khartoum), Messrs. Gellatly Hankey and Co., Ltd., Mr. Aziz Kfouri, Messrs. Boxall and Co., Messrs. the Sudan Import and Export Co., Messrs. the Sudan Mercantile Co., Ltd., Messrs. the Sudan Trading Co., Mr. G. Th. Stamatopoulo, Messrs. Law and Co., Ltd., Messrs. Lorenzato Bros., Messrs. Arnold Cheney and Co. (Inc.), Messrs. Salvator S. Hakim and Co., Mr. Sarkis Ismirlian, Mr. Zenop Khatchikian, and Messrs. Luigi Lifonti and Co.

THE SENNAR DAM.

A Great Engineering Achievement.

To many people at home the brief message that reached this country from the Sudan last week announcing that the dam that is being constructed on the Blue Nile at Sennar has been raised to a safe height in time for the July floods will cause no greater emotion than the report that the monsoon has broken, for which all India waits with an annually recurring anxiety. Actually it records an outstanding triumph for British engineering, for it has been a question for the past six months of a

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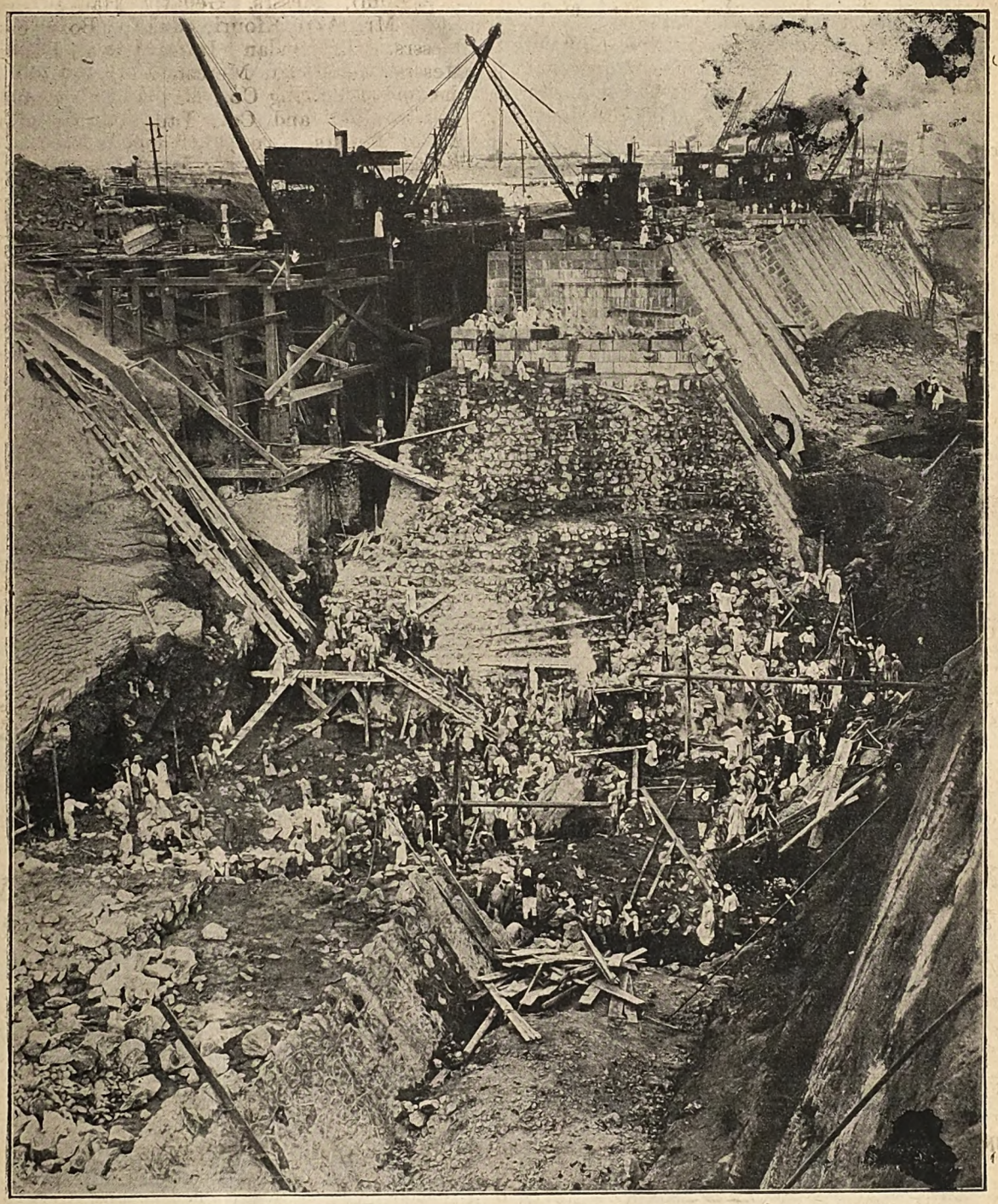
fight against time, in which there has been no possibility of a respite even of a couple of weeks or so. Failure would have been fraught with serious consequences, for it would have meant delay in the carrying out of a scheme which will transform the face of the region which the dam will enable to be irrigated, will appreciably increase the world's cotton production, and will add enormously to the wealth of the Sudan.

and one-third to green crops, the remaining third being allowed to lie fallow. Considerable progress has already been made with cotton growing in this area, about 20,000 acres (one acre is rather less than a feddan) having been put under this crop, the water being supplied from the Nile by pumps. The dam will also serve for the storage of water during the period of the spring when the natural flow of the river is not available for the Sudan.



THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GREAT DAM ACROSS THE BLUE NILE AT MAKWAR.

Messrs. S. Pearson and Son, Ltd., the present firm of contractors, took over the construction of the Sennar Dam in December, 1922; it is due to be finished in July of next year. The main object of the dam is to raise the level of the river to a point which will enable the water to flow into a main canal, and thence into branch canals, so as to permit of the irrigation of 300,000 feddans in the Gezireh. The intention is to devote one-third of this area annually to cotton cultivation,

The construction of the dam is a vast enterprise, and the undertaking will certainly rank with the chief works of this kind that have marked the civilising influence of Great Britain, and very possibly indeed may be considered as the most remarkable of them. Some civilisations have left as their memorial and as a hostage to immortality strange edifices like the hill fortresses in India and the Pyramids in Egypt; outside Italy the Romans left more useful

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evidence in the shape of wonderful roads, which they constructed for military purposes; we shall be remembered by monuments of a more altruistic nature designed primarily to benefit the regions which give them place. A few figures will serve to emphasise the nature of the present undertaking. The dam will be 3,300 yards in length, and will result in the formation of a reservoir about 50 miles long, the capacity of which will be 140,000 million gallons. The dam will stand 26 metres above the bed of the river, and its height from its lowest foundations will be 36 metres. It will contain 550,000 cubic yards of masonry, and its total weight will be nearly 1,000,000 tons. There will be eighty sluices in the principal structure and fourteen for the main canal regulator, seven of which will provide the requisite water for the irrigation of the 300,000 feddans. The top of the dam is to serve as a bridge for the railway that will link up Gedaref with El Obeid. The canalisation scheme will comprise about 1,000 miles of canals and 10,000 miles of field channels.

These are briefly the main details of the enterprise, but no mere narration of facts can bring out the enormous importance of the undertaking, the prodigious difficulties under which it is being carried out, and, it may be added, the romance of one of the most vivid chapters in connection with the development of the Empire's resources. The completion of the dam will literally open a new phase in the history of the Sudan. It will mean that a tract of territory about 60 miles in length, or rather farther than from London to Cambridge, of great potentialities, will be made available to the cultivator, and that in a short space of time the comparatively limited cotton production of the country will be greatly increased. The task of developing the 300,000 feddans is naturally no light undertaking. The area is being divided into twenty stations of about 15,000 feddans each, these stations being self-contained, and in the coming October ploughing is to be started on an area for which a water supply will be available from the dam in the first year.

The difficulties that have had to be overcome in constructing the dam have been of a most serious character. In the first place, there has been the question of transporting the necessary machinery and tools to the spot, no light task in itself. Then the granite used in the dam has had to be transported from a hill some 35 miles away. The labour question has also been a problem. It has not only been a matter of recruiting the necessary staff, but of housing them, and, in fact, of providing all the necessary facilities of life in a region where they were lacking, for Makwar, where the dam is, was only a tiny village. This hamlet, if so it can be called, not long ago entirely obscure, has now had fame thrust upon it, and from insignificant proportions has developed almost in a flash into a small town of several thousand inhabitants—a town of attractive little houses with pleasant gardens. Actually some 19,000 men are engaged on the dam, half of whom are Sudanese and half Saidis. The organisation rendered necessary in connection with the work, difficult as it has been, has been light compared with the problems encountered in the actual work of construction. It has been throughout a race with inexorable time. As already mentioned, the work began in December, 1922. In the river at the site of the dam there is a small island, and this facilitated the work in so far as it enabled the engineers to lay the foundations in two sections. The west channel was first dealt with, and the foundations there were completed and part of the sluices constructed before the advent of last year's floods. This season's work has been devoted to laying the foundations in the other section, and to bringing the dam to a height which would enable it to withstand the July floods. It often happens in engineering work of this nature that the nature of the terrain presents serious difficulties, and in this case one small section of the river bed has occasioned no little trouble. When it is a question of a fight with time, as it has been for the past six months, delay of any kind is serious. Happily, the difficulty was overcome, the dam has reached its scheduled height, and the next season will be devoted to its completion, which it is certain will now take place within the period allotted to the work. This season's achievement is one on which Messrs. S. Pearson and Son, Ltd., and their director, Mr. F. T. Hopkinson, who is in charge of the work, are entitled to the heartiest congratulations.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The Sudan at Wembley.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a description of the exhibits of the Sudan at the Exhibition. It will, I think, be admitted by all who have seen it that for distinctiveness the Sudan Court will bear comparison with any other part of the Exhibition. It is certainly most picturesque with the charming little scenes illustrative of various aspects of the life of the country, and, what is more important, gives a wonderfully comprehensive glimpse of the Sudan as it is to-day and of its possibilities. The exhibits should, and undoubtedly will, serve the invaluable purpose of helping to concentrate public opinion at home on one of the most important regions in the Empire.

The Sudan's Products.

It has always been a weakness of people at home that they have failed to understand the need for works of development abroad, and this has been an admitted hindrance to progress in the past. It is essential that it should be adequately realised here exactly what the Sudan means to this country, and what, if present indications are anything to go by and the economic advance continues unchecked, it will come to mean in the future. At the present time the Sudan is practically dependent on a few commodities for its export trade—gum, cotton, and dura—and of them it need scarcely be said that it is to cotton that the country must look for the great development of its prosperity. The rapid development of cotton growing in the Sudan is of practically equal importance to that country and to Great Britain. For the Sudan it means a great accession of wealth in the future; for Great Britain (or rather for Lancashire) it means a prospect of relative freedom from the anxiety caused by dependence on the American cotton crop.

Empire Cotton Growing.

As has often been emphasised in these columns, this crop has been decreasing for a number of years, while at the same time internal consumption has been increasing, with the result that the margin available for export has tended constantly to decrease. Thus a situation has arisen which, if world consumption were normal, would make it very difficult for Lancashire to obtain the necessary supplies of the raw material. It is only so because there was no consistent effort in the years before the war to develop the cotton-growing possibilities of the Empire. If there had been, the present position could be faced with equanimity. Of course, for the reason stated—the restricted world consumption—there is no immediate prospect that Lancashire will have to go short of the raw material, and the great efforts that have been made in recent years in the Sudan and elsewhere (principally, of course, in the Sudan) to develop cotton growing—efforts which are now beginning to bear fruit—have to some extent relieved the situation, which will be still easier in a few years when the new areas in the Sudan are fully developed. But it must be emphasised that what is being done is not sufficient, and that there must be no halting until we are as near independence as regard supplies of cotton as it is possible for us to be, and for that reason it is essential that the public should be well educated with regard to the importance of the cotton-growing regions of the Empire.

Roumanian Mining.

The Roumanian Mining Law Bill, concerning which there has been a good deal of discussion, has now been passed, after undergoing amendments, and as it now stands it is impossible to take exception to it as likely to hamper the work of the oil companies. "Acquired rights" are guaranteed under the new law, which means that the companies will be able to carry on the work of development on their existing lands as before. It is only in the case of new concessions that the new régime applies, and in this case there is no barrier to the introduction of foreign capital. The law has for its object the safeguarding of Roumanian rights, and it is well that it has been so modified that it is unlikely to have the effect of imposing a handicap on foreign enterprise, for Roumania is not in a position to utilise her vast oil resources herself, and if she is to obtain the fullest advantage from them she must have external assistance.

Bank of British West Africa.

The report of the Bank of British West Africa for the year ended March 31 shows a further slight reduction in earnings, the net profits being £95,990, as compared with £100,574 for 1922-23, and £105,936 for 1921-22; £34,690 was brought forward, making the disposable balance £130,680, as against £134,690. A dividend of 5 per cent. is proposed, the same as before, absorbing £60,000; £25,000 is to be placed to the contingency fund, and £10,000 to premises, etc., leaving £35,680 to be carried forward.

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COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Liubliana, June 18.

The Economic Position.

The Minister of Finance, M. Stojadinovitch, recently made an important statement to the editor of the *Politika* with regard to Yugoslavia's economic position. The main points of the statement were as follows :—

The great inundations from which the country suffered during the past winter and spring did immense damage, but this has, however, been almost entirely remedied, thanks to the timely precautions of the authorities. To give but one instance, one hundred truck-loads of maize and eighty-two truck-loads of wheat were distributed in the Banat (the grain-growing district between the Danube and the Tisza and part of the so-called Vojvodina) in order to replace the seedling crops that had been washed away.

The harvest itself bids fair to be excellent. The heavy rains were very beneficial in the hilly and mountainous regions. It must, above all, be remembered that the area under cultivation is considerably greater this year than last, which is mainly due to the fact that the early, unfortunate results of the Agrarian Reform in the Vojvodina have now been overcome. The newly settled smallholders have learnt to farm their land to better purpose, and this year the best wheat is to be seen in the fields of the ex-volunteers who were given land in that region.

Special success is this year attending the effort to encourage the cultivation of the sugar-beet. So far Yugoslavia has had to import from abroad one-half of the sugar she requires. But this year the sugar-beet harvest promises to be so rich that the sugar factories will scarcely be able to deal with all the beet, and something like one thousand truck-loads of sugar are likely to be available for export.

The tobacco crop promises equally well. The peasants go in more and more for the cultivation of tobacco, and, whereas after the harvest of 1922 only 500,000 kg. of tobacco were available for export, that figure is likely to be increased tenfold this year. This means, of course, a corresponding increase in the revenue of the State, which has the monopoly of the tobacco trade.

Nothing reflects more clearly the growth abroad of confidence in Yugoslavia than the British loan of £300,000 which has just been concluded between the Monopolies Administration and a group of British firms.

Yugoslavia's export trade will continue to meet with encouragement. To this end the export duties will again be appreciably lowered, and the country, as regards its commercial policy, will approach nearer to free trade.

There is no valid reason at all for the present fluctuations of the dinar. The number of bank-notes in circulation has been reduced by half a milliard during the course of this year, viz., from 6,000,000,000 dinars (rather less than twenty million pounds) to 5,500,000,000 dinars. Exports have gone up considerably. During the first three months of 1923 they amounted to 753,000 tons of a total value of 2,000,000,000 dinars, whereas during the corresponding three months of 1924 they had risen to 976,000 tons of a total value of 2,786,000,000 dinars. The State revenue shows a similar increase. In January, 1923, it amounted to 583,000,000 dinars, and in January, 1924, to 783,000,000, an increase of 200,000,000 dinars. In conclusion, exports are increasing, the State Budget has been balanced, and the amount of paper money is being reduced. These are three incontrovertible proofs of the value of the dinar.

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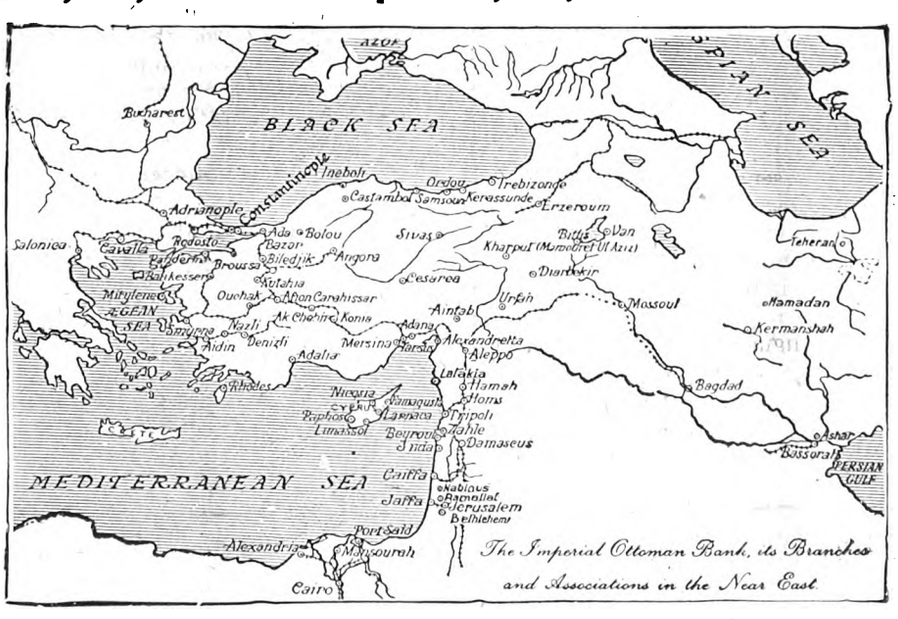

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Company Meetings.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

Growth of Traffic.

The one hundred and forty-ninth half-yearly general meeting of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company was held on June 27 at the company's offices. 48, Copthall Avenue, E.C. Sir Charles H. Armstrong (chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary (Mr. R. H. Walpole) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—You will have seen from the report that the position of the railway has improved very materially, and that surplus profits have been earned. Gross earnings, it is true, were 20½ lakhs, or 1.36 per cent., less than in 1922-23, but, on the other hand, expenditure declined by 132 lakhs, or 11.73 per cent., and this has resulted in net earnings of about 490 lakhs, as against 378 lakhs a year ago, an improvement of 11¾ lakhs, or 29.54 per cent. Gross earnings a year ago of just over 15 crores were a record, and, although we have not earned quite as much during the past year, we are over a crore ahead of 1921-22 and 6½ crores better than ten years ago The steady growth of traffic during the past decade is very encouraging, and although increased receipts of the past two years are due in some measure to higher rates and fares, there can be little doubt that traffic is steadily increasing, and, if trade conditions are favourable, it will continue to increase.

After taking into account the interest charges on debentures and advances and loans from the Secretary of State, which amount altogether to 364 lakhs, there is a profit of a little over 89 lakhs, of which the company's share for distribution is one-twentieth The amount due to us has been remitted at 1s. 4 29-32d. exchange, realising £26,722 7s. 5d., and out of this we propose to pay a dividend of one-half per cent. in addition to the 1½ per cent. guaranteed for the six months, which makes a total dividend for the year of 3½ per cent. You will have noticed from the report that out of surplus profits we are carrying forward a balance of over £10,000, as our contract with the Secretary of State ends a year hence, and certain expenses and adjustments may have to be provided for in our final account.

The total number of passengers carried during the year was 39½ millions, against nearly 41,000,000 in the previous year, and our total receipts from coaching traffic were less by 11½ lakhs. I may observe, however, that the falling off in passenger traffic occurred almost entirely in the first six months of the year, the figures for the last six months showing only a trifling decline. The improvement has continued since the year ended, and, if there is again a good monsoon, I look for a steady increase in numbers as the year progresses. I may say that by the mail before last the agent advised us that we had carried during that week over 1,000,000 passengers, which, I believe, is a record for this railway. By the last mail the figure was 978,000—in both cases about 225,000 ahead of the previous week in the corresponding period of last year. You will see, therefore, that our traffic is making good progress.

As regards the current year, all I can say at present is that for the first 2½ months we are ahead of last year's traffics by 26 lakhs of rupees, and we have therefore made a good start. The future depends to a very great extent on the monsoon, which set in quietly in Western India about ten days ago. If good harvests are again reaped, trade ought to improve, and, if so, traffics may continue to expand. An increased export trade is, however, largely dependent on more settled conditions in Europe and improved exchanges, which do not seem very likely at present. The import trade of India may also improve, but prices of many things are still a good deal higher than they should be, and so long as this is the case India, in all probability, will continue to buy from hand to mouth, as has been the case for some time. Stocks of imported articles are running down, however, and as supplies must be kept up a steady trade in most things is likely if the monsoon gives good rain all over the country. The import trade of the country must, however, to some extent be affected by the high Customs tariff which now prevails. India, although a rich country collectively, is relatively poor individually, and if the cost of necessary articles is unduly enhanced, and the cost of living thereby increased, the general trade of the country, both import and export, must suffer.

In some directions, I regret to see, India is now drifting into extreme protection, and the Tariff Bill lately passed, giving excessive protection to the steel industry, is bound to have an injurious effect on the general development of the country. It will also increase the cost of living, and this in its turn will affect many other things. The railway cannot expect to benefit from changes of this character, which will affect the cost of construction and repairs, besides limiting, in all probability, the volume of the traffic that it will have to carry.

The report was unanimously adopted.

EGYPTIAN HOTELS.

A Successful Year.

The twenty-seventh annual general meeting of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., was held on June 30 at the registered offices of the company, 11, Ironmonger Lane, E.C. The Right Hon. Lord Claud Hamilton, P.C. (chairman of the company), presided.

The Chairman said: I presume you will, as usual, take the directors' report and accounts as read. We have the satisfaction of knowing that

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the company has enjoyed a very successful year. Shepheard's Hotel has earned a profit of over £58,000, equalling the results of the year ended April 30, 1920, which was then a record year. The Semiramis Hotel has also had a very good year, and we are able to bring into our profit and loss account the sum of £10,256, which has been received in reduction of advances to the Semiramis Hotel written off in previous years. As you are aware, in past years considerable sums have been provided to write down the book value of our investments in and advances to the Semiramis Hotel. In view of the improved circumstances, the directors feel justified in bringing into our profits the amount repaid by the Semiramis Hotel during the year. This makes a total profit on the hotels for the year, after providing for taxation and bad debts, of £68,023, and after taking into account interest and dividends received, administration and office expenses in London and Cairo, there remains a net profit for the year of £70,000 6s. 4d., the highest profits recorded in the history of the company.

Turning to the balance-sheet, it will be seen that the book value of our freehold and leasehold land and buildings remains unaltered. Plant, fixtures, and furniture has been reduced by the sum of £5,000, which has been written off as depreciation. Our interest in the Société Suisse Egyptienne des Hôtels stands at a lower figure this year by some £4,400. This is due to a reduction in the current indebtedness between Semiramis Hotel and Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., apart from the repayment of £10,256 on advances.

The company's investments, which stand at cost, show very little changes compared with last year, the only difference being a slight decrease in our holding of first debentures in the Société Suisse Egyptienne des Hôtels owing to the redemption of a portion of our holding in these debentures. The market value of our holding in Egyptian Government securities, which stand in the balance-sheet at £39,101, was at the date of the balance-sheet £45,037, showing an appreciation of £5,936. Cash at bank and in hand amounts to £121,082, as against £82,630 last year. It will therefore be seen that, including our holding in Egyptian Government securities at their market value, we have cash and readily realisable securities of a total value of £166,119, so that our financial position is sound. Our liabilities are small. We owe only £5,200, which includes provision for taxation. Our special reserve account stands at £35,000, and it is proposed to increase this to £50,000 by the appropriation of £15,000 out of this year's profits. The balance on profit and loss account is £73,083, making with the special reserve account a total of undistributed profits exceeding £108,000.

Last year I dealt with proposals to which reference had been made in the directors' report for the amalgamation of the company's undertaking with that of the Société des Grands Hôtels d'Egypte, and dealt at some length with the terms which were then proposed. Discussions are proceeding, but no definite agreement has yet been entered into, and the directors are not therefore in a position to take steps to summon meetings of the shareholders for the purpose of considering the proposed amalgamation I now move that the directors' report and accounts for the year to April 30, 1924, be received and adopted.

Mr. Charles Baehler seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

INDIA'S TRADE IN 1923-24.

(*Concluded from page* 670.)

The total imports of motor-cycles (including scooters) rose from 866 to 1,182, and the values from 8½ to 9¼ lakhs. The United Kingdom fully maintained its predominant position in this trade, and supplied 831 units, valued at 6 lakhs. The imports from the United States of America fell from 261 to 228, but the value rose from 2.5 to 2.68 lakhs.

There has been a slight reduction in rubber tyres for motor vehicles from 106 to 100 lakhs, although the number of tyres imported rose from 157,807 to 174,770. British makers improved their position and supplied 60,000 tyres, valued at 35 lakhs, France supplied 54,589 tyres, valued at 31 lakhs, while the United States of America shipped 25,798 tyres, valued at 13½ lakhs. There has been an increase in the shipments from Germany from 9,139 tyres, valued at 6½ lakhs in 1922-23, to 16,713 tyres, valued at 11 lakhs, in the year under review.

Paper and Pasteboard.

The total trade in packing paper fell from 26½ lakhs to 21 lakhs. The leading supplier is Germany, the imports whence rose slightly to 6¾ lakhs. Imports from the United Kingdom fell from 8½ to 4½ lakhs, those from Sweden rose slightly from 3¾ to 4 lakhs, while shipments from Norway were reduced from 2¾ to 1½ lakhs. As regards printing paper there was a slight diminution in the total trade from 96 to 86 lakhs. The British share fell from 35 to 28 lakhs, that of Norway from 30 to 20 lakhs, whereas Germany more than doubled her shipments from 10 to 22 lakhs. The imports from other countries are of small account. The total trade in writing paper and envelopes fell from 62 to 56 lakhs. The British share receded from 43 to 35 lakhs, but German shipments rose from 5 to 8 lakhs, and those from other countries from 6 to 7 lakhs. It will be observed that the Germans are gradually regaining their pre-war share of the trade in all types of paper.

Provisions and Liquors.

The total imports of provisions have remained fairly stationary, the variation being from 277 to 281 lakhs. The share of the United Kingdom fell slightly from 134 to 130 lakhs. The trade of the Straits Settlements (mostly native produce and goods in transit from Australia) remained stationary at 41 lakhs. Dutch shipments advanced from 16 to 27 lakhs, but those from the United States of America fell from 28 to 24 lakhs, and direct supplies from Australia and New Zealand shrank from 18 to 14 lakhs.

There has been a slight decrease in the total trade in ale, beer, and porter from 83 to 78 lakhs. British shipments fell from 57 to 51 lakhs, but those from Germany advanced from 20 to 22½ lakhs. It is noteworthy that German light beers are regaining their position in the Indian market. The total imports of spirit fell from 225 lakhs to 206 lakhs. The British share diminished from 157 to 136 lakhs, whereas that of France increased

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from 37 to 39 lakhs. Imports from Germany, America, and other countries remained stationary.

Dyestuffs Obtained from Coal Tar.

The total trade advanced slightly from 247 to 251 lakhs, which was accounted for by increased imports of alizarines. Germany has almost regained her pre-war predominance in this trade, but imports from that country fell slightly from 184 to 181 lakhs. British supplies advanced from 20 to 27 lakhs, and those from Holland (probably transit trade from Germany) rose from 14 to 18 lakhs. American shipments remained fairly stationary at 11 lakhs.

Coal.

There has been a considerable reduction in the imports of coal from 882,000 tons to 592,000 tons. This reduction is almost entirely in British coal, the shipments from the United Kingdom having been reduced from 496,000 tons to 79,000 tons. The Union of South Africa, however, increased its share from 254,000 tons to 274,000 tons, Portuguese East Africa advanced from 34,000 to 169,000 tons, and Australia advanced from 24,000 to 61,000 tons. A determined effort is now being made—so far without much success—by the Bengal Collieries to regain their position in the Bombay market, but in view of the high transit rates, both by rail and sea, and also in view of the fact that the calorific value of Bengal coal is far below that of Cardiff or African coal, it is doubtful whether they will have much success in markets such as Bombay, Karachi, or even Colombo.

COTTON AND COTTON GOODS

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Quiet But Steady.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended June 19 state :—

During the past week the market has been quiet but steady. The net changes since last Thursday are :—Sakellarides 0.10 dollar down for July, 0.03 dollar up for November, 0.10 dollar down for January. Ashmouni 0.10 dollar down for June, 0.35 dollar down for August, 0.48 dollar down for October, 0.48 dollar down for December. There have been no large fluctuations. Old crops are steadily losing interest, and the open July position probably does not exceed 25,000 kantars. New crops have not attracted much attention during the past week, and the volume of business has been small; November has again been the better market of the new crop options. The trade demand has been poor, and the amount of business actually put through has been small. The bulk of the inquiry continues to run on Fully Good Fair and above. The week's receipts amount to 2,378 krs., against exports 76,974 krs.; the stock stands at 699,976 krs. Spot : Total sales this week amount to about 4,100 bales, of which we estimate 3,100 bales Sakel and 1,000 bales Uppers.

Sakellaridis.—The demand, as during the past few weeks, continues to be concentrated on Fully Good Fair and Fully Good Fair to Good. In the latter part of the week rather more interest was shown in Fully Fair to Good Fair and Good Fair, and consequently the price of spot as compared with contracts has somewhat stiffened for these grades. Other grades remain about unchanged.

Uppers.—Business has been done in all grades from Fully Fair to Good. For cotton below Fully Good Fair prices, as compared with contracts, are somewhat dearer.

Crop 1924.—The crop continues to make good progress. Temperature has been somewhat higher than normal, but water supply has, in general, been ample. The discharge from the Assouan reservoir shows a slight increase.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Demand Only Moderate.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended June 25 :—

Egyptian Spot.—Although the spot sales show a substantial increase over last week, the demand cannot be classified as very satisfactory. In the first place, quite a slice of the business transacted has been for export, Russian buyers taking a good line of Uppers, 500 bales at 22.00d., in addition to quite good purchases of Sudan and Tokar Sakel. Local spinners continue to be seriously handicapped by the large difference in old and new crop values, and find their operations in yarns much hampered thereby; they will only pay the old crop basis when forced into the market, and a hand-to-mouth policy will probably be strictly enforced for the next few weeks. The bulk of the business transacted, with the exception of the Uppers mentioned previously, has been in Sakel cotton grading F.G.F. to Good, all other growths and grades finding little interest. Holders of the lower qualities show increasing keenness to let their cotton go, but price restrictions so far have failed to achieve the desired result. The spot quotation of Fair in the different growths still appear on the high side, although they have been cheapened with the other grades during the week. More interest has been shown in Sudan and Tokar Sakel, and the basis of these qualities shows material reductions. White Sudans have been neglected. Estimated sales of Egyptian 2,400 bales. Sudans 1,150 bales.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅝-97$\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	250-253
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	370-380
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	24.35
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5$\frac{1}{64}$-1.5$\frac{3}{64}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	93¾-94
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	1030-1050
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	350,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5$\frac{1}{64}$-1.5$\frac{3}{64}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	840-855
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.32$\frac{1}{32}$-4.32$\frac{3}{16}$
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	81.80-81.90
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	147⅛
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	100¼
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	590-610
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	306-309,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	—	22.40-22.60

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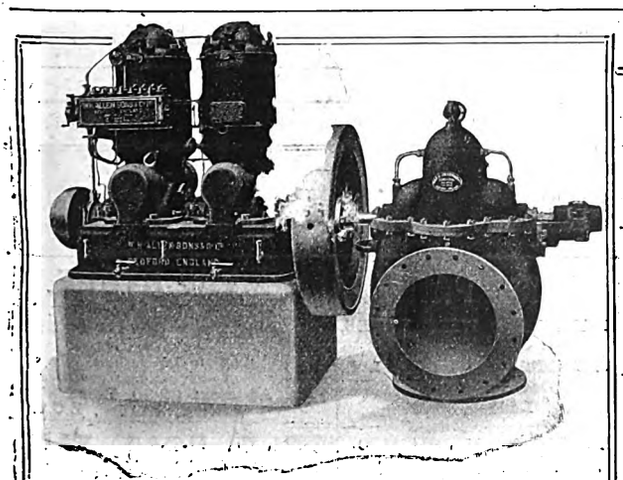

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No. 687—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Bulgarian Reparations.

Elsewhere in this issue a correspondent calls attention to a difficulty in connection with the payment of Bulgarian reparations. The country is able to provide the fifteen hundred million leva which are the equivalent of the sum in gold required for this year's instalment, but cannot convert this amount into gold without seriously affecting the rate of Bulgarian exchange. The problem is on all fours with that presented by German reparations, for the payment of which a special commission of experts has had to devise ways and means. It is evident that Bulgaria must receive similar consideration, but whether the suggestion put forward by our correspondent offers the most practical solution of the difficulty is a question for experts to decide. The dilemma emphasises the necessity for keeping the Inter-Allied Reparations Commission on a footing that will enable it to give practical advice and assistance to Bulgaria in all financial matters. In our issue last week reference was made to the difference of opinion that had arisen between the British delegate and his French and Italian colleagues on the Commission. The British delegate wished to reduce the charge to the Bulgarian Government to a considerable extent, while leaving the Commission sufficiently strong to carry weight in Bulgaria. The French and Italian delegates, however, favoured merely a skeleton Commission, which would be in a position to do little more than to register acceptance of moneys received, and would be quite unable to carry on the good work hitherto done by the Reparations Commission. The question, it is understood, is still under discussion.

Egypt and the Negotiations.

Unless some untoward event occurs in the near future, there is now reason to suppose that the negotiations between Zaghloul Pasha and the British Government will ultimately take place. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's invitation conjured up all manner of misgivings in Zaghloul Pasha's mind, and it has proved a laborious task and one requiring much patience to remove all these. The Egyptian Prime Minister was afraid that he might find himself committed to a rigid agenda, which would not allow him to discuss matters of special interest to Egypt. He saw in the representation of the Sudan in the British Empire Exhibition a subtle attempt to prejudice Egypt's case; he imagined that the acceptance of the invitation might be taken to imply acquiescence in the legitimacy of the 1922 Declaration. One by one all these qualms have been met straightforwardly by the British Government, and, as Zaghloul Pasha has not raised any further obstacle, it is hoped that eventually he will state that he accepts the invitation to come to London. In the meantime the date originally contemplated by the British Government for the conference has passed. Zaghloul Pasha is understood to be anxious to spend some time at a Continental watering-place, and if he does not find it convenient to be in England before the end of this month he will not expect the negotiations to take place until September, after the holidays.

The Little Entente.

The Foreign Ministers of the Little Entente meet this week in conference at Prague, and will pass in review most subjects of common interest to the three States. According to the published programme, the agenda comprises five items:—Current international questions; the relations of the three States with their neighbours; financial reform in Austria and Hungary; the next agenda of the League of Nations' Council, including military control in ex-enemy countries, disarmament, and treaties of mutual assistance; pending Inter-Allied negotiations on the subject of Reparations. It will be too soon to discover whether the change of Government in France will have any repercussion on the Little Entente. So long as it remains identified with its original basis, it is essentially a warlike agency for peace; it looks to maintaining peace in Central and South-Eastern Europe by threatening war. This is the Poincaré policy, to which Czecho-Slovakia has been won over and which M. Pashitch has always preached. It serves its purpose, but it prevents the Little Entente from playing the far more useful rôle of a constructive peacemaker. What is wanted in Europe to-day is the

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grasp of the hand of fellowship, not a row of bayonets from which are suspended placards of the *Es ist verboten* type. If M. Herriot can introduce a fresh orientation into France's foreign policy, it will probably be found that there is a strong body of opinion in all the countries of the Little Entente anxious to seize the first opportunity of making common cause with their neighbours in a general scheme of reconstruction based on active co-operation, instead of wasting time and money in duplicating Europe's police with a special force of their own.

Roumania and Bessarabia.

If the *Adcverul* of Bucharest is to be believed, the Roumanian Government is about to undertake a thorough-going reform of the Bessarabian administration. According to this organ M. Bratianu has realised that the present régime has alienated the Roumanian population of the province, and he hopes to regain the sympathies of the people by means of reforms and concessions. Unless this is merely an announcement of a "tendencious" character—a method of carrying on the political struggle not unknown to the Balkans—it may not be without its bearing on the conference of the Little Entente. Roumania is understood to have been disappointed in her hopes of support from Czecho-Slovakia and Yugoslavia in the event of finding herself embroiled with Russia over Bessarabia, and she can hardly wish to have her isolation in regard to this question emphasised at the coming meeting. The introduction of reforms in Bessarabia would probably remove all danger of the province's becoming a *casus belli*. Soviet Russia has offered to respect the verdict of an impartial plebiscite in Bessarabia, but the Roumanian Government refused to submit the fate of the province to this test. The promised reforms—in the event of the statement in the *Adeverul* being authentic—may rob a plebiscite of some of the disadvantages that it previously had in Roumanian eyes, although there was a genuine belief in Roumania that the Russian suggestion was merely a device for perpetuating unrest.

Air Operations in Iraq.

Some time has passed since the subject of air operations in Iraq was raised in the House of Commons, and a new Government is in power. Mr. Lansbury hoped, no doubt, to drive a nail or two into the coffin of the Royal Air Force, as far as their activities in Iraq are concerned, by taking up the question afresh with a Labour Ministry. He was anxious to know the number of casualties suffered by the bombers and the bombed during the last five months, and whether notice was being duly served on the civilian population before bombing operations took place. The answer was clearly not to his liking. Mr. Leach, Under-Secretary for Air, stated that there had been five bombing operations in the period referred to, and in each case, with one exception, two days' warning had been given to enable the inhabitants to withdraw from the encampments and grazing grounds that were to be attacked. The case where no warning was given was one of an attack by tribes on native police, in which one police officer and three police were killed. There had been no casualties among the Air Force and none among the natives had been reported. Mr. Leach reminded Mr. Lansbury that in areas where violence is habitual, air action, however regrettable the necessity for it, in many cases checks at an early stage disturbances which would otherwise cause great loss of life. In this connection he mentioned that a frontier tribe of the same type as those which Mr. Lansbury had apparently in mind recently killed 146 men and 127 women and children during a single raid, in the course of which all male prisoners and wounded, both men and boys, were put to death. Mr. Lansbury sought to make a point of the fact that the raid referred to did not take place anywhere near the villages that had been bombed; but the incident was cited merely to draw attention to the contrast between Mr. Lansbury's solicitude over bombing operations and what might be of frequent occurrence in Iraq if the Air Force had not proved such a powerful deterrent.

A Loan for Palestine.

An inquiry by Lord Raglan in the House of Lords last week elicited an interesting statement from Lord Arnold, Under-Secretary for the Colonies, on the subject of Palestine's indebtedness. As is known, the question of a loan for Palestine has long been under discussion, but hitherto the time has not been considered opportune for raising one. The British Government has agreed in principle to guarantee the loan. To meet the situation recourse has been had to advances from the Crown Agents, and these at present amount to £1,583,000. Up to December 31, 1923, the Palestine Government had incurred expenditure amounting to £1,861,000 upon services which it is proposed should ultimately be made chargeable to loan funds, the largest items being £1,178,000 for railway capital improvements, £299,000 for purchase of the Jaffa-Jerusalem Railway, £123,000 for telegraphs and telephones, and £104,000 for roads and bridges. Lord Arnold pointed out that certain Imperial assets had been handed over to the Palestine Government of a value provisionally fixed at £2,190,000, but for which the Palestine Government wishes to pay a considerably lower sum. In any case, payments for interest and sinking fund for whatever amount may ultimately be agreed upon will not become due until the finances of Palestine are in a condition to meet the charge. Lord Arnold concluded by pointing out that Palestine's indebtedness has been incurred almost entirely for extraordinary or capital expenditure, the normal Budget having been balanced each year since the Mandate came into operation.

The Indian Extremists' Position.

The outcome of the Extremist caucus which closed in India last week is apparently a famous victory for most, if not all, of the contending sections, and, without fuller reports of the proceedings than the cable has brought, we should not like to commit ourselves to a definite opinion on points of detail, but the general position is perhaps fairly represented by a remark we heard the other day to the effect that Mr. Gandhi has turned his platform into an umbrella. No one need now take his stand on the Mahatma's elaborate resolutions, or qualify for political leadership by making up his daily tale of homespun yarn, but it is still open to anyone to

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take shelter under them until the storm of criticism shall blow over. That means that the original ideals have definitely lost ground among the more prominent politicians, but the next meeting of the full Congress must be awaited in order to know how far the change has penetrated downwards through the rank and file, who may conceivably assert a claim to influence the movement they finance. From one point of view we should like to see them do so, but there is so much important work waiting to be done in India that the elimination of the impracticalities of the last few years is getting rather urgent.

Legislatures and the Law.

The most piquant item of the recent news from India is that the Calcutta High Court has been moved for an injunction to prohibit the local legislature from considering a motion which the Government proposes to introduce. We have no intention of entering into the legal questions thus raised, but this form of procedure is so congenial to Indian mentality that, if the High Court finds it has jurisdiction—and it has never shirked responsibility—the position will become almost impossible, for business may at any time be held up until judges in India have reached a decision, and the Privy Council has decided whether their decision is correct. Subordinate legislatures have, of course, to expect, as the Dominions know so well, that a proportion of their work will in due course be declared unconstitutional, but judicial interference with pending business is a different matter, and, if the practice becomes established, the choice will apparently lie between amending the Constitution so as to stop it, and locating a bench of the Privy Council in Delhi, a course for which there is much to be said on other grounds.

Protection and Lobbying.

Among the details brought by the mail regarding the Protection debates in Simla, perhaps the most striking is the reaction of legislators to the pressure brought to bear on them by the industries concerned. Everybody knows that Protection means lobbying, and most of us have anticipated that, once started, lobbying would flourish in India, because it is essentially the procedure which prevailed throughout the centuries of Indian autocracy. What was not anticipated was that legislators would be quick to resent the procedure, and would be led to look critically into a measure they were at first prepared to accept without comment. It would be premature to build too much on this development, for, compared with most parts of India, Bombay is notoriously deficient in tact, and it is quite possible that the lobbying was too energetic for the taste of the more sedate North, but nevertheless the reaction strikes us as a distinctly hopeful sign. Legislators are everywhere subject to the pestering attentions of touts of every description, and even in politically advanced countries they show a curious reluctance to protect themselves against the nuisance, yet the remedy is in their own hands, and we should like to believe that the fact is already becoming realised in Simla.

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By NICOLAOS ANASTASSIOU.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Political Interregnum.

These are dull and apparently idle days. After much tuning up of the Press and a flourish of trumpets generally, one expected the international symphony of the Herriot-MacDonald and Soviet-Whitehall orchestras to begin, but still we hear nothing but the blaring discords of instruments rather in rivalry than in harmony. This, of course, is the pessimistic view: the optimist will assuredly talk of the big things that may—or may not—be going on under the surface.

It certainly looks, however, as if the present régime were but an interregnum between a sleep and a sleep. But then, these Russians and French are such difficult people. . . .

Freezing Our Blood.

In the House of Lords a day or two ago Lord Danesfort endeavoured to freeze our blood with the horrid story of Communist teaching in our Sunday schools. He produced some most terrifying specimens of Communist precepts that he alleged are being inculcated into the minds of the young, and asked for special legislation to deal with these iniquitous practices. He wishes, in fact, that summary jurisdiction be granted to nip in the bud these monstrous habits of the proletariat. This is the real Toryism, strong and very hearty.

But it is difficult to take it all very seriously. The introducer of these proposals was able to show no evidence upon the extent to which these nefarious doctrines are spreading over the fair land, nor was he or any of his supporters able to adduce any reasonable answer to Lord Haldane's comment that the ordinary laws of the land were sufficient to deal with seditious teachings. However, a certain type of mind will, one supposes, always believe in the existence of these bogeys; and, unheedful of our Lords Danesforts and the object of their whims, the world rolls on.

Peerages to Sell.

"If I had peerages to sell, and everybody paid his quota," as, in those beautiful days before the War, the delightful *Eyewitness* used to sing! We have been reminded recently that the good old game has been going on apace since the decease of the *Eyewitness;* nothing, in fact, seems to be able to stop it. The other day we read of a certain man who actually recovered £3,000 that he had given to some institution in the expectation that he would receive a knighthood. And of another man who, owing to unexpected financial stringency, asked for the return—and obtained it—of a large sum of money that he had paid in to the party funds. Which funds these were is being kept very quiet. But, of course, everyone knows.

The Builders' Strike.

While politicians prate of houses, the possibility and the necessity for more houses, the people who build them quietly go out on strike. At least, I think it is a strike, for one's head has become so confused recently with the quarrel between master builders and men and their eternal talk of lock-outs and strikes that one cannot be quite clear who is actually the more to blame.

In the public estimation neither side is receiving much sympathy, for the ordinary man recognises only too well that he is being made the milch cow by the builders. The difficulty appears to be that neither on the masters' side nor on the men's can a body of men be found to act as plenipotentiaries.

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Wimbledon.

Wimbledon did not turn out to be such an American affair after all. One of the championships, the Ladies' Singles, remained actually with us, although it is at least doubtful, and therefore not so complimentary to the winner, Miss McKane, whether either of the two finalists would have beaten Miss Ryan, let alone her conqueror, Mlle. Lenglen. The Ladies' Doubles went deservedly to America, just as the Singles went to France. America, however, were not unlucky to get the Men's Doubles, for our pair, the holders, were very close to them when they were forced to retire.

Apart from the appearance of Norman Brookes, nothing more startling was seen at Wimbledon than the brilliance of the two French finalists, MM. Lacoste and Borotra. They, together with the unfortunate Mlle. Lenglen, enhanced their reputations as much as anybody. Otherwise the year will be remembered chiefly for its bad umpiring and for the illusions of the linesmen.

Henley.

It was a good Henley this year, despite the high, blustering weather. The racing was as excellent as the rowing conditions were bad, and the final day—Saturday—was brilliant. It was extremely pleasant to see Leander coming into its own once more—nothing in post-War sport had been more missed than the temporary eclipse of this famous crew. But they had to go all out to beat Jesus, head of the river at Cambridge, in the Grand. Times were slow, but that was due to the strength of the wind. They have made a new course at Henley (one mile 550 yards), and although everybody seemed to think it a great improvement, the fact that it is in a straight line from start to finish has its drawbacks.

Miraculous Cures.

This is an age of little faith, or, perhaps it is more accurate to say, an age in which the former blind belief in Religion has been transferred to Science. In any case, the doctor nowadays more often has the final word than the priest.

It was scarcely a surprise, therefore, to find that a majority of the fifty-four British medical men who met on Sunday to investigate an alleged miraculous cure to a girl at Lourdes should have given as a verdict "Not Proven."

But other cases of cure at Lourdes are to be submitted to medical opinion, and the result should be interesting.

Missing Trains.

The missing of trains is probably a psychological phenomenon not confined to office staffs and holiday seekers in this country. But the railway companies, the most passionate lovers that we now have in psychological and artistic research, are seeking to force the disappearance of this phenomenon upon Great Britain. The Great Western are altering their time tables in the hope of making the missing of a train an impossibility. They are standardising their trains, so that the times of departure will be definite, and therefore, they say, easy to remember. For the North, ten minutes past the hour; for Bristol, fifteen minutes past the hour, and so on.

This is all very worthy, but is it not a little too patronising and American? Do we really miss trains because we cannot remember the times of their departure? Is not the reason for catching the 10.13 instead of the 10.0 an altogether different one? If the Great Western could tell us every morning where we have left our tobacco pouch and our season ticket, and where (oh where) our studs have slipped to, the virtue of their scheme would be quite unassailable.

The Learning of English

It is a curious fact that many of our best writers, such as Mr. Wells, Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Churchill—all, of course, very different, and only mentioned together for convenience—bestir themselves from time to time to attack the teaching of English on a classical basis. The two novelists (one of them early became a playwright) have now nothing new to say, so that their words are no longer regarded in this matter; but the other day Mr. Churchill very nearly demolished the "Classics" case when he pointed out the modern absurdity of pronouncing, with the avowed object of making people speak better English, the verb *audire* as "Owdearie." That, indeed, was a nail on the head, but it may be that this "modern" pronunciation of Latin is a passing phase; and, in any case, nothing can destroy the fact that you cannot, as Mr. Churchill suggests we should, make English a basic study in our public schools, because it is not a basic language. ALTER EGO.

THE BRITISH-INDIAN UNION.

Luncheon to Lord and Lady Willingdon.

A large gathering assembled at a luncheon given in the Hotel Cecil on July 2 by the British-Indian Union in honour of Lord and Lady Willingdon. The Duke of Connaught presided, and paid a tribute to Lord Willingdon's service in India, first as Governor of Bombay and afterwards as Governor of Madras. He and Lady Willingdon had won golden opinions for their kindness and consideration to all classes, and the secret of their success had been the human touch which they had introduced in all their relations with the people of India.

Lord Willingdon, in replying to the toast of his health, testified to the courtesy and consideration that he had met with in India. He held the view that it was character and not colour that really mattered. The social relations between Indians and British in India were the basis of our troubles in that country. A difficulty in the way of mutual understanding was to be found in that reserve and self-consciousness which are associated with the British character, but Lord Willingdon pointed out that the Indian was also an extraordinarily reserved person, who found it equally difficult to make friends with the Briton. Thus it was always quite easy to meet Indians on official occasions from a business and professional point of view, but it was extraordinarily difficult to meet them on purely social lines. With the recognition of equality of opportunity of citizenship, and with an increase of opportunities of meeting together, Lord Willingdon believed that they would create a mutual tolerance, a mutual goodwill, and a mutual friendship which would be of inestimable value to India.

Lord Olivier, Secretary of State for India, proposed the health of the Duke of Connaught.

Among others present were:—

The Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanagar, the Maharaja of Rajpipla, the Earl of Midleton, Viscount and Viscountess Erleigh, Countess De La Warr, Sir D. M. and Lady Dalal, Sir Alfred and Lady Mond, Sir P. and Lady Rajagopala Chariar, Dr. Annie Besant, Lieut.-Colonel Sir M. Murray, the Right Hon. E. S. Montagu, Lady Emily Lutyens, Sir M. Bhownagree, the Right Hon. V. S. Sastri, the Hon. I. Freeman Thomas, Miss Forbes Robertson, Katherine Countess of Cromer, the Countess of Wemyss, Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Isaacs, the Countess Roberts, Colonel the Hon. A. G. A. Hore-Ruthven, V.C., and Mrs. Hore-Ruthven, Mrs. Philip Snowden, Sir Thomas and Lady Bennett, and Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, Sir Ali and Lady Imam, Sir Grimwood and Lady Mears, Lady Cynthia Mosley, Sir Dinshaw and Lady Petit, Sir Stanley and Lady Reed, Sir Dorab and Lady Tata, and the Rev. and Mrs. R. M. Gray.

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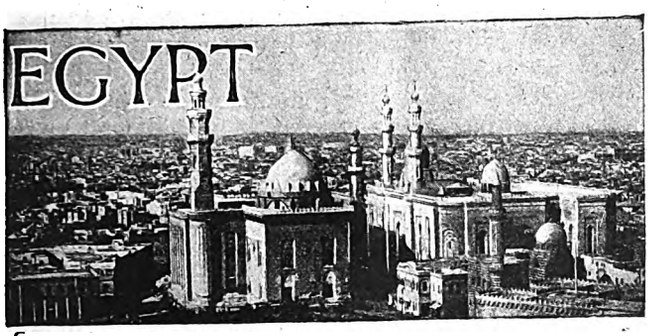
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, June 21.

The Residency.

The Residency transferred for the summer to Ramleh on Monday last, and the day after to-morrow the King and his household will follow suit. Although the Government announced earlier that, with the object of economising, it was not its intention to spend the summer in Alexandria, as had been the custom for the past twenty-five years, there is every reason to believe that as soon as Parliament rises for the summer vacation the Ministers and their staffs will move down to Bulkeley.

The Manchester Speeches.

The speeches made by Izzet Pasha at Manchester are still a great topic of conversation, and continue to arouse much favourable comment in Egyptian circles. In European circles, while his eloquence and courage are admired, it is pointed out that he appears to have made one great omission, viz., when criticisms of the Egyptian cotton crop were voiced by his hosts and fears as to the future were expressed, he made no reference whatever to this matter in his later speech. He would have scored a strong point if, as he could easily have done, he had taken upon himself to give some reassurance with regard to the cotton crop, and undertaken to emphasise to his Government the feelings of the spinners in this connection.

[As reported in THE NEAR EAST at the time, the necessary assurances on these points were given by Aziz Izzet Pasha immediately after the luncheon speeches.—ED.]

The Mahmal.

The dispute that arose last year between the Egyptian Government and King Hussein in connection with the medical mission that the former sent with the Holy Carpet, as a result of which the "Mahmal," together with the Egyptian contribution of grain and money was withdrawn, has now been settled, and the Egyptian caravan will leave this year as usual. It has been agreed that Egyptian doctors shall accompany the escort not as a special mission, but as medical attendants on the Egyptian pilgrims, and that special wards shall be reserved for the latter in the Hejaz hospitals.

The Heliopolis Murder.

The Court of Assize was occupied this week with the trial of the two students—one of whom had confessed—accused of murdering the airman Ryan at Heliopolis two months ago, and with the case against *Al Siassa*, the organ of the Liberal Constitutional Party. The Court acquitted the second student, who had pleaded not guilty, and sentenced his companion to fifteen years' penal servitude, the maximum penalty under the Penal Code, as he is under sixteen years of age.

The "Al Siassa" Case.

The *Al Siassa* case had to be suspended after three days' hearing owing to the difficulty which the presiding judge had in keeping order in court. From the very start feeling ran very high, and it must be admitted that neither the Parquet representative nor the counsel who intervened on behalf of Parliament, which, it is alleged, had been calumniated by *Al Siassa* articles, assisted to allay the excitement. The Parquet agent started off by insulting the counsel who were defending *Al Siassa;* next he went on to refer to "the English, our terrible oppressors"—this, with an English judge on the bench, may have been a subtle compliment to British judicial impartiality, but it was scarcely tactful—and finally he made what was really a political speech. Throughout defending counsel's speech, which the audience freely interrupted with loud contradictions, Parliament's counsel repeatedly evoked loud applause by intervening every time Zaghloul Pasha's name was pronounced, and protesting at the "sacrilege" in dragging "this martyr's name" into the case! So excited did the audience become, and to such an extent did they interfere with the hearing, that the President had at last to suspend the hearing until, as he said, "the police can take measures adequately to maintain order in court."

Industrial Troubles in Cairo.

Industrial trouble of the nature that so disturbed Alexandria a year ago has now made its appearance in Cairo. The men employed at the Belgian cement factory at Maasara, close to Helouan, struck and took possession of the works, from which for a long time it was impossible to dislodge them. Their complaint was, first, that the management dismissed seven of their number, and, secondly, that they wanted better hours and pay. They have now resumed work on the promise that the dismissed men will be reinstated and their grievances investigated by the authorities.

The aspect which the labour question is assuming in Egypt is a very serious feature in the present situation, and the assumption by Abdel Rahman Bey Fahmy, of Vengeance Society notoriety, of the chairmanship of the Egyptian Labour Syndicate, is regarded with much apprehension in responsible industrial circles. The trouble is that

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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there is no legislation dealing with the subject. A Conciliation Committee was set up some considerable time ago to deal with disputes, but the net result of its activities seems to have been that the men have gained the day all along the line, without, however, anything being done to regulate the future.

Until Government introduces legislation and adopts a fair attitude towards the employers it is to be feared that not only will the present unsatisfactory state of affairs continue, but there will be a danger of a serious aggravation of relations between Capital and Labour, and a set-back to industrial development. Many foreign enterprises are indeed finding it extremely difficult to carry on under the conditions which they have been compelled to grant to their men. Already the firm of Bos has had to close its works at Ismailia, thus throwing out of work over 500 persons, owing to its being impossible to carry on in the face of the demands of labour, and it is highly probable, unless the Government takes some action to regulate the question on proper lines, that foreign enterprises will have to shut down for a time.

Cairo, June 28.

The Sudan Declaration of Policy.

To say that the debate on the Sudan in the House of Lords and Lord Parmoor's declaration of the Government's policy came as a terrible shock to the Egyptians is to put but mildly the effect which they have had on them. That a Government belonging to the party which had always sympathised so keenly with them in their national struggle, and from whom they had always been led to expect so much, should adopt such an attitude had never entered for one moment into the calculations of the majority of Egyptians, and the consequent effect on them has been all the more overwhelming. In proportion as they have so far expected great results from the forthcoming negotiations, so now they view the outcome of the meeting between Zaghloul Pasha and Mr. MacDonald with pessimistic eyes; and, although the more irresponsible element feigns to be more uncompromising, more defiant, than ever, one can detect even among its members a distinct note of depression. In many circles it is considered that the question of negotiation had better be allowed to drop for the present, but, so far, there has been no indication that Zaghloul Pasha has abandoned the idea.

While the British Government's declaration of policy came like a bolt from the blue, it has for some little time been evident that some firm action was becoming necessary. The intervention of the home authorities has, indeed, been fully justified by the attitude adopted of late by the Chamber of Deputies towards this question. A large portion of practically every sitting during the past fortnight has been taken up with discussions on the subject of the Sudan, which have been based almost entirely, in the first place on telegrams addressed to the Chamber by a certain notorious agitator in Khartoum, Abdel Latif, announcing that a delegation from the Sudanese bringing documents testifying to the loyalty of the people towards Egypt and King Fuad, had been stopped at Wadi Halfa on its way to Cairo and turned back, that a demonstration to protest had been dispersed with bloodshed by the authorities, and that a member of the "delegation" had been arrested; and, secondly, on news of the holding of a meeting at Omdurman at which well-known sympathisers with the present régime passed resolutions of loyalty to the Sudan Government.

The reading of these telegrams in the Chamber excited the members almost to frenzy. Not for one moment was any doubt thrown on the veracity of the information contained in them; nor was any effort made to get the news they conveyed confirmed or to ascertain what the true facts of the case were. They affirmed the loyalty of the Sudanese towards Egypt, they once again showed the British authorities in the light of crushers of a national movement. That was sufficient for the Deputies, and they proceeded to outvie one another in the vehemence of their protests. The anti-British sentiments which they expressed could cause no surprise to anyone who has been a regular attendant at their meetings, which have latterly evinced such a growing Anglophobe, almost xenophobe, tendency, that one has ofttimes wondered whether the Chamber really wanted a friendly settlement with Great Britain.

Zaghloul Pasha, each day the question was raised, managed to get the Deputies under control, but only after, on the last occasion, practically endorsing their views as to the attitude of the Sudan authorities towards this "loyalty" movement. He declared that they could rely on his insisting on their rights in the Sudan in the course of the negotiations, which would, however, only take place if he received the assurance which he still awaited from the British Government that by agreeing to negotiate Egypt would lose none of her rights.

The aged Premier carried the day and obtained a unanimous vote of confidence, which was repeated when, after a heated debate, the credit for the compensation of foreign officials was agreed to by 116 votes to 10 (with 5 abstainers).

The Case of "Al Siassa."

The decision of the Assize Court in the case of *Al Siassa*, where the proprietor and one of the writers have been acquitted, and the editor was found guilty of libelling the Parliament and fined £E30, with P.T.1 damage to the latter—is regarded as a fair one. It is, however, not what the Zaghloulists wanted—a sentence that would completely squash opposition criticism—for it practically says that Parliament and Government may be criticised, but that in this instance, perhaps, the words used exceeded somewhat the limits of reasonable criticism. At the same time there is no doubt but that it establishes an important precedent, and will have its effect on the tone of the Press in the future.

Judge Crabites.

The European community has been much shocked by the accident that on Wednesday befel

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Judge Pierre Crabites, the American member of the Mixed Court of First Instance in Cairo. He was boarding a tram to return to his home at lunch-time when he slipped, and the wheels went over his right leg, almost completely crushing the lower part. The Judge never lost consciousness, and, after a temporary dressing at the Continental, was conveyed to the Deaconess's Hospital, where late in the evening his leg was amputated half way up the shin. He is doing now remarkably well, and the sympathy which has been extended on all sides to his wife and himself in this painful experience, has been mingled with the warmest admiration for the cheerful—almost stoical—bravery with which he has borne his sufferings from the very moment the accident occurred to him.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, July 1.

M. Petkoff's Murder.

The assassination of M. Petko Petkoff, formerly Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry and a prominent Agrarian, has caused wide regret throughout Bulgaria. Petkoff was a bitter opponent of the Tsankoff Government, and it is to be feared that he was a prime mover in the Agrarian-Communist *rapprochement*. But the country has seen too many political murders since the War, and Petkoff's death has done no one any good. Upon the day following on the murder a young Macedonian named Karkalasheff, who had been employed as a police agent, was arrested and accused of the crime. It is stated that he confessed but afterwards retracted his confession. The Communist and Agrarian parties used the murder as an occasion for violently attacking the Government, and even went as far as accusing the latter of being the perpetrators. In general, the whole affair has made a most disagreeable impression, and it is to be hoped that there will be no more of its kind. The only cheerful point about the matter is the arrest of the supposed assassin, an event almost unique in post-War Bulgarian history.

The Macedonians.

More details are now coming to light concerning the recent voyage of Todor Alexandroff to England, France, and Switzerland. It appears that the Macedonian Revolutionary leader, although not discouraged by the reception he was accorded, has at least realised that there exists little sympathy in Western Europe for warlike movements.

He would thus seem to have come to the crossing of the ways. Either he must renounce revolutionary action and place his trust in the good will of the Great Powers and the League of Nations, or he must strike a blow, assisted, perhaps, by the Bolshevists. The latter contingency seems the most probable, and the fact that Stephan Raditch, the Croat peasant leader, has been at Moscow may prove to be an incentive to Alexandroff to consider co-operation with the Soviet.

The latter are only too willing to work with the Macedonians, as they would do anything to embarrass the Tsankoff Government, who have so far proved a nasty stumbling-block to Bolshevist intrigue in the Balkans. Despite the huge sums which Bolshevist agents continue to distribute, no tangible results have yet been achieved, and Macedonian collaboration would thus be doubly welcome. But as far as can be seen, the bulk of the Macedonians do not desire to have anything to do with the Bolshevists, as they realise that nothing good can come out of such a friendship. What is to be feared is that some of the extremer elements amongst the revolutionaries—men who have everything to gain and nothing to lose by the continuance of trouble—may become the tools of the Bolshevists.

Radoslavoff's Liberal Cabinet.

Last week the Cabinet approved of a Bill which will have the effect of pardoning the members of the Liberal Government who were in power when the world War began. This Bill will probably be brought before the Sobranye in two or three days, but it is necessary to note that neither Radoslavoff himself, nor General Boyadjieff, both of whom refused to return to Bulgaria to face their trials, will be pardoned. MM. Tontcheff and Dintcheff, two other Ministers who are considered guilty of corruption, are also excepted. As the other Ministers have been in prison for about four years, and as they mostly held minor positions, it is considered that they deserve to be pardoned. Incidentally, if the amnesty is approved, the Liberal Party is likely to support the Government more than hitherto.

GREECE.

Athens, June 27.

Greece and Bulgaria.

If Bulgaria is sincerely trying to make friends with Greece someone might point out to her that she is going the wrong way about it. After the Bourgas incident, when the two brothers Benzis, both well-known business men in that town, were ordered to leave Bulgaria simply because their presence there was resented by certain "Macedonian circles," there comes another incident of a decidedly more serious character. The persecution by the Bulgarian autonomists—a new name for *komitaji*—of the Greek population of the village of Vodena, in the Stenimaque region, has caused the Hellenic Government to lodge an energetic protest with King Boris's Government. The latter's reply, received two days ago, assures the Greek Foreign Office that every endeavour will be made to prevent a recurrence of the persecutions. From a diplomatic point of view Bulgaria's reply is, of course, entirely satisfactory, and although Greece does not for a moment doubt the good intentions of official Bulgaria, the recent activities of the "autonomists" make her treat these assurances with much scepticism.

A Navy Without Officers.

At the time of writing, one hundred and thirteen out of the 170 combatant officers of the Hellenic Navy are under resignation, and unless the dispute which has arisen between the Minister of Marine and the naval officers is settled within the next few hours, the cruiser Averoff and the other Greek warships told off to meet the British Fleet expected at Phaleron Bay to-day, will have to do so with practically no officers aboard!

The real cause of the trouble is the policy of favouritism alleged to have been adopted by the Minister of Marine, Captain Hajikyriakos, who, after distributing the best and "cushiest" naval

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posts to his relatives and friends, is said to have promoted them to higher ranks, while officers who were entitled to promotion were left on the shelf merely because their views and ideas did not coincide with those of Captain Hajikyriakos. The naval officers' demands embodied in a protocol which the newspapers were not permitted to publish, are as follows:—

(1) Immediate resignation of Captain Hajikyriakos, the Minister of Marine.

(2) A civilian to be appointed Minister of Marine.

(3) That the Minister of Marine's private office be entirely abolished.

(4) That the Council of Admirals, which was done away with during the revolutionary régime, be re-established.

(5) The recent naval promotions to be cancelled.

As was only to be expected, these demands were rejected by the Government, and the Prime Minister, M. Papanastasiou, refused to receive a delegation of naval officers who called on him to expose their views. Among the leaders of the movement whose arrest has been ordered is Lieutenant Kountouriotis, son of the temporary President, Admiral Kountouriotis.

The Government and the Movement.

For the third time within three weeks M. Papanastasiou's Government obtained the confidence of the National Assembly, 158 voting for and 123 against. Before the vote was taken the Premier asked the Assembly for a *carte blanche* to deal with the naval officers' movement. Several Deputies, including many of M. Papanastasiou's followers, objected to the question being brought before the National Assembly on the ground that the movement being of a purely disciplinary nature, the only competent authority to deal with it was the Ministry of Marine.

It now remains to be seen how the Government will handle the situation. If, as it is generally believed, the naval officers stick out to the end and refuse to withdraw their resignations, the Minister of Marine will find himself in an extremely awkward position and may eventually have to resign.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, undated.

The High Commissioner.

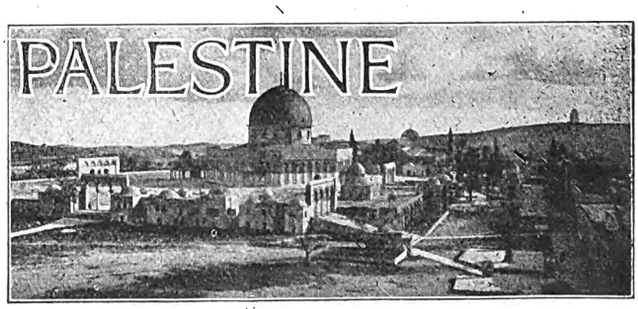
Sir Malcolm Stevenson is proceeding to England on leave. The papers express their hopes that he will explain to the Colonial Office the real needs of the island. Leaving aside the "unalterable desire" for union with Greece, they dwell principally on the general hope that tithes may be abolished. So much has been said on the subject lately that the taking of tithes is now regarded as a grievance. As regards alternative taxes, little is said; but it is represented that an income-tax would be quite inapplicable to Cyprus, as the number of persons, even in the towns, who keep accurate accounts of their income and expenditure "can be counted on the fingers of one hand." It is urged that any new taxes should fall with absolute impartiality on all classes of the people. An increase of import duty on all articles of luxury is of first importance.

The Exhibition and Cyprus.

There is no doubt that the British Exhibition should lead to a fresh start in Cyprus industries. It is felt that a better knowledge of each other between Britain and Cyprus is being brought about, and one paper goes so far as to say that Wembley will do more for Cyprus than the Government has done in half a century. Some lessons are certainly being learned by Cypriots. Information has been received from London that a great many articles could have been sold in the Cyprus pavilion had they been obtainable, especially, perhaps, silk work. There may be yet time to send more of this. The only industry which is fairly well represented, and of which a considerable quantity is being sold, is the lace called "Lefkara work," from the village where it has been principally made, which is always much admired. Many other articles would find a ready sale, and among them may be mentioned the excellent *Rahat-lokoum* ("Turkish delight"), which is remarkably well made in Cyprus. Wines cannot be sampled in the pavilion (as they could be in the Indian and Colonial Exhibition of 1886), but can be obtained in the restaurants. While these are hardly likely to find a profitable market in England in present circumstances, it may safely be said that raisins, if prepared by better methods, which would be easy, would be largely bought in London. Failure to give practical attention to this opening would be to neglect what would be of immense value to the large vine districts of the island.

The Tithe Grain.

With regard to the shortage in the cereal harvest, which it is calculated is over 20 per cent. less than that of an average year, a fresh proposal is being made as to disposal of the Government tithe. According to the present system, the tithe grain is sold to the highest bidders, generally town merchants, in large quantities. The greater part is generally exported, much, perhaps, being required for island needs, especially in a bad year. Then, later, higher prices have to be paid for imported flour. This is one of the causes of the indebtedness of her peasants. Some, again, is stored and sold at profitable prices by the merchants in the island. The *Phoni* advocates sales by the Government of small quantities, say, 5 to 10 bushels, to agriculturists and others. This would relieve the situation. If Government would agree to this, it would enable the poorer classes in towns and villages to buy on easier terms, and lessen the demand for foreign flour. The Government would not incur extra expense, as the storekeepers and employees have to be paid from harvest time till December or January, if not later.



Jerusalem, June 21.

Zionist Immigrants.

Some two months ago reference was made in these columns to the hope aroused in official Zionist circles that, as a result of the large influx during Passover of Jewish tourists of the petty commercial class, Jewish immigration into Palestine might soon be expected to include a greater proportion of this class, and that instead of, as hitherto, a predominance of the purely idealist,

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but penniless and unskilled immigrant, Palestine would attract the self-supporting craftsman and tradesman. We now learn that this expectation has been realised. "The remarkable change," announces the local Zionist Executive, "in the psychological make-up and material equipment of the type of the Jewish immigrants coming to Palestine from Poland has been a subject of comment among immigration officials who have come in contact with them. In contrast with, and in addition to, the former class of immigrants, who were mostly young and penniless Chaluzim, every boat coming to Palestine at present brings its quota of persons of means, who are leaving behind them businesses of no mean standing. The Jewish merchant in Poland is prepared to leave the country with the first opportunity which presents itself, disregarding stern economic considerations. He believes in, and is prepared to trust himself to, his powers and his talents to adjust himself in a new environment with what money he is able to take away with him. The financial and commercial pressure which is brought to bear upon the Jewish merchants by the Polish authorities is one of the causes. Merchants, small tradesmen, masters of crafts that are thought to be useful in Palestine, constitute the largest class of would-be immigrants from Poland, while Chaluzim continue to come as before, but in somewhat smaller numbers. It is interesting to note that with each boat carrying passengers from Poland to Palestine, the Polish Government has made it a practice to send an inspector detailed by this Governntent's Department of Immigration."

It is, of course, just this class which formed the bulk of Jewish immigrants into America. With the closing of the doors into the United States this class can certainly be expected to turn its attention to Palestine. The possession of £500 gives you absolute right of entrance into Palestine as a man of independent means.

The Reign of Quiet.

The present reign of absolute peace in Palestine is becoming a matter for increasing wonder. It is ceasing to be something merely negative, the mere absence of political dissatisfaction; it is becoming something positive and almost tangible. Many of those who, during the past three years, vilified the Administration for its weakness, its flabbiness, or its alleged pro or anti tendencies, are beginning to confess that, after all, the Government has been right in its "feather-pillow" treatment of all parties, in its rejection of anything approaching a cast-iron policy, and, in fact, in its having no policy at all save only that it gropes after one "if haply it might feel after a working policy and find it." Results certainly seem to be justifying this procedure, however heretical it may have appeared to the minds of the more ardent spirits in Palestine (and out of it) seeking to propagate their own variety of revealed truth, be it maximum Balfour-Declarationism or Pan-Arab Nationalism. The new Hebron Peasant Party is a striking proof of all this. It is not a Zionist puppet by any means, even though the other Arab political parties say it is; it is just a symptom of the return of the Palestinian to the normal, to the "policy" which he has cultivated during the past two and perhaps three thousand years—the policy of making the best of things as they are.

Several cases of plague are reported from Patras, Greece, and there have been two deaths.

The Central Relief Committee for Ukrainian Refugees in Roumania has liquidated its work on account of lack of funds.

SIR HERBERT SAMUEL.

Sir Herbert Samuel (High Commissioner for Palestine) and Lady Samuel arrived at Victoria on July 2 on leave, and will stay in London for a month. They were met at the station by Messrs. Philip and G. H. Samuel (sons), Dame Louise Samuel, Sir Ronald and Lady Storrs, Major Hubert Young (representing the Colonial Office), Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Franklin, Mrs. Frederic Franklin, Mrs. M. Gaster, Mrs. Friedlander, and other relatives and friends. Sir Herbert and Lady Samuel visited the Palestine Pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition last Thursday morning.

PALESTINE BOY SCOUTS.

For the first time in the history of the Holy Land a small party of Palestine Boy Scouts, consisting of five members, under the leadership of Scoutmaster J. Gordon Boutagy, are visiting England.

For several years past members of the 1st Haifa St. Luke's Troop of Boy Scouts have evinced a very keen desire of taking part in the Boy Scouts Jamboree, which is held in England. This party, travelling on the s.s. "Cordilliere," of the Messagerie Maritime, via Marseilles, were due in London yesterday.

SYRIAN FREEDOM.

Dr. Shahbender, the Syrian Nationalist, was the guest of the Near and Middle East Association at the meeting which was held, by the kindness of Sir Robert Hadfield, on July 1 at 22, Carlton House Terrace. Dr. Shahbender, who was introduced by Mrs. Arthur McGrath (who emphasised the point that Arab nationalism was not now religious but racial), explained that the Syrians were still pining for freedom and independence, and pleaded for the application of a universal justice. He was seconded by Dr. D. G. Hogarth, who testified to the services that Dr. Shahbender had rendered to the Allied cause in the War, and to the general merits of the Arabs. He noted, and lauded, Dr. Shahbender's avoidance of the subject of the form of the projected Arab confederation, and doubted whether he personally would live to see it. But he was certain that in the hands of men like the Association's guest the Arab cause was safe and would persist. Britain's concern in the matter of an Arab confederation was at once interested and disinterested, and this country had already done much in the fulfilment of its promises.

The following were among those present:—Lord Burnham, Mr. and Mrs. Ameer Ali, Lady Polson, Sir Aurel Stein, Sir Thomas Mackenzie, Colonel Sir Charles Yate, M.P., Mrs. L. Cobham, Miss Edith Durham, Rev. Dr. Robert Frew, Sir Henry and Lady Burt, Lady Blois, Hon. Mrs. Eric Rollo, Mr. and Mrs. John Nicholson, Miss Vaughan Morgan, Viscountess Gort, Sir Ali and Lady Imam, Sir Thomas Arnold, Sir Krishna Gupta, Sir John Foster Fraser, Lady Seton-Karr, Mrs. Emile Mond, Mrs. Margaret Hasluck, Brig.-Gen. E. A. Plunkett, Mr. Ernest Richmond, Mr. Campbell Ogilvie, Captain R. A. Eden, M.P., Mme. Sabit Bey.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

THE CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—When the Press is invited by a society to attend its annual dinner or other important function, is it to the society that the Press owes a duty or merely to the one or two individuals who are selected to speak on the occasion? I am prompted to put this question to you by the reports in *The Times*, the *Daily Telegraph*, and the *Morning Post* of the annual dinner of the Central Asian Society, which was held on July 3 in the Hotel Victoria, reports which confined themselves almost entirely to the opinions expressed by the speakers on political affairs, and repeated not a word of the very appreciative remarks which the president of the society, the Marquis Curzon of Kedleston, made on the work and publications of the society itself. Since 1914 Lord Curzon has taken the chair twice only at the annual dinners of the C.A.S., viz., in October, 1920, and July 3, 1924, and on both occasions he passed encomia, and well-deserved encomia, first on the very important work which the society was doing in educating public opinion and forming a school of statesmen and administrators for British Dominions and mandated territories in Asia and—allow me to add, *pace* Lord Curzon—in Africa, and, secondly, on the quarterly journal which the society edits and publishes. The remarks thus made by Lord Curzon have been and are, I may remark, a clear incentive to the society to pursue the good work that it has been doing, and when the Press fails to report those remarks it blunders. It is, in my opinion, more important to the British nation and Empire to be made acquainted with the instruments which are at its command for the furtherance of its Imperial interests than to have its sphere of thought entirely confined to individual ideas on political topics. Individuals pass, but societies continue.

The gentle badinage which passed in the after-dinner speeches on the occasion to which I refer with regard to Africa between Lord Curzon and Lord Winterton eminently entertained the assembled audience; but, as a matter of fact, the Central Asian Society, the width of whose scope was so eloquently outlined by Lord Curzon, has embraced a section of Africa. How else would the society have as members Sir Reginald Wingate, Lord Allenby, Sir Lee Stack, Sir Robert Coryndon, Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter, Sir Gilbert Clayton, and many others whose services connect them with the African side of the Suez Canal? North-East Africa cannot help associating itself with Levantine and Arabian Asia, and when Mr. Robert Williams addressed the C.A.S. on the Cape to Cairo Railway and the lands and peoples through which that railway was to pass, the society was made to feel the strong link that held Africa to Asia not only by the lecturer, but by such authorities as Sir Reginald Wingate, Sir Frederick Lugard, Sir Lee Stack, and Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter.

I will say no more for the moment. I think it most desirable in the interests of the Central Asian Society that the British nation and Empire should know that that society is thoroughly alive to the importance of the task which it has undertaken. It was with very great pleasure that we, the members of the society, heard the tribute which was paid by Lord Curzon, in his after-dinner speech on July 3, to The Near East as the organ of the Press which had proved itself to be a valued and valuable ally of the society of which he is president.—I am, etc.,

A. C. Yates, Lt.-Col.,
Hon. Sec. C.A.S., 1918-1923.

BULGARIAN REPARATIONS.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—However injudicious a plea on behalf of Bulgaria may seem at a time when people are drawing a parallel between the murder of Matteotti and that of the Agrarian Petkoff, and are expressing their just indignation against Governments which countenance the committal of such brutal acts, it is nevertheless imperative to draw the attention of responsible quarters to the probable consequences of the Reparation programme imposed on Bulgaria if an economic crisis, which will increase the already perturbed state of the Near East, is to be timely averted.

The Bulgarian Government, in its desire to show itself as subservient to the Allies as the late dictator Stamboliski, whose policy was to placate foreign interests at all costs, in order to secure a free hand at home, has assumed obligations which it will be impossible for it to discharge without bringing disaster to the country.

In this year's Budget a sum of 1,500,000,000 leva has been earmarked for remittances abroad on account of various Reparation claims and loans—this being the first of a series of annual instalments—and persons conversant with the state of affairs in Bulgaria are at a loss to understand how this feat of converting annually such a huge sum of leva (over a third of the fiduciary circulation) into gold is to be achieved without causing a serious drop in the local exchange, paralysing the economic life of the country, and thereby rendering the payment of Reparations illusory.

Bulgaria has an adverse commercial balance; her exports last year were less than her imports, and so far this year the deficit has shown a tendency to increase. She has no foreign investments on which to draw. She can obtain the necessary funds for payments abroad only by exporting her produce, the available quantity of which barely suffices to pay for what she imports, or, by utilising part of the State Bank's gold reserve for the purpose. But as this reserve constitutes the sole cover for the fiduciary circulation, and does not even attain one per cent. of the latter, it will be admitted that this expedient cannot be resorted to without influencing adversely the exchange.

If the Allied Governments are sincerely desirous of avoiding the economic ruin of Bulgaria, and of averting the burden they will subsequently have to shoulder in order to place her once more on her feet, they should put a stop to this process of bleeding her white. They would demur to the suggestion of cancelling Bulgaria's obligations, but such a solution there is yet time to avoid. All that is apparently needed for the present is that the money raised for the express purpose of paying Reparations be, at least for some years to come, allowed to remain in the country, and utilised, under Allied control, in works of public utility, which would increase the productive capacity of Bulgaria and enable her to increase her exports, thus affording her the means with which to pay an ever-increasing annual quota on account of the obligations that have been imposed on her.—I am, etc.,

G. Clenton Logio.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

July 10, 1924 (New Style).
June 27, 1924, (Old Style).
Julheggia 7, 1342, A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Tamuz 8, 5684, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Kay and Lady Muir have arrived in London from Scotland.

Sir Horace Rumbold has arrived at 3, Grafton Street, W., from the British Embassy, Madrid.

M. Subotitch, specially attached to the Yugoslav Legation, has left London for Belgrade on leave.

The Gaekwar of Baroda arrived last week in London for a few days, staying at Claridge's Hotel.

Sir Leslie and Lady Miller left London on July 5 for Madras by the British India Company's s.s. Matiana.

The Bulgarian Minister, who is a member of the International Olympic Committee, left London on July 4 for Paris.

Prince and Princess Omar Halim and Prince Osman Fouad have arrived in London from Paris. They are staying at Claridge's Hotel.

The Roumanian Minister, who is now in Switzerland, has arranged to return to London on Monday next for the Inter-Allied Conference.

Mr. Norman Nairn, of the Nairn Transport Company, who recently arrived in London from Beyrout, will leave for New York on Saturday.

Sir Ali and Lady Imam will be "at home" to meet the delegates of the National Convention of India at the Hotel Cecil on Friday, July 18.

Sir Elliot Colvin, head of the British Delegation of the Bulgarian Reparations Commission, has returned to London. A meeting of the Commission was recently held in Paris.

The Crown Princess of Roumania will arrive in London from Paris with her sister, Princess Irène of Greece, in the middle of next week. The Crown Prince will arrive a few days later.

The representatives of India at the September session of the Assembly of the League of Nations will be Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, Major-General His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner, and Sir Muhammad Rafique.

The Marquess and Marchioness Curzon left London last Friday for Paris, where the Marquess will undergo medical treatment for a recurrence of the illness from which he suffered two years ago. Lord Curzon expects to be away for two weeks.

Under the auspices of the East India Association, a paper will be read on July 14, at 3.30 p.m., at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, by Pandit Shyam Shankar, on "The Mystery of Stereotyped Customs of India." The Right Hon. the Earl of Ronaldshay will preside.

Lieut.-Colonel Francis Humphrys (His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Kabul) was received in audience by the King at Buckingham Palace on July 5, when His Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight-Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division).

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Mr. William Alison Russell, K.C. (King's Advocate, Cyprus), has been appointed Chief Justice of His Majesty's High Court of Tanganyika.

Mr. Jacques Jonathan has been appointed Brazilian Consul in Belgrade.

Lord Chalmers, who has recently been elected Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge, is President of the Royal Asiatic Society.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala has been created a Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour by the French Government.

OBITUARY.

Dr. Jacob Israel de Haan, Jerusalem correspondent of the *Daily Express*, was shot on June 30 in the courtyard of the hospital in the Jaffa Road, Jerusalem. Three shots were fired, and death was almost instantaneous. Dr. de Haan was formerly a lecturer at the Government Law School in Jerusalem.

Major-General John Upperton, C.B., who died on July 2 in his 89th year, joined the Bengal Army as a cornet in 1854. During the Indian Mutiny he commanded a body of irregular cavalry, being present at the siege of Delhi and serving through the campaign in Oude, including the capture of Amethee and Shunkergahr and the action of Dundeakeira. In 1869 General Upperton accompanied Sher Ali, the Ameer of Afghanistan, on his visit to the Viceroy at Umballa. He was sent on special service to Baluchistan in 1876, and in 1882 took part in the Egyptian War, being mentioned in despatches and awarded the C.B.

An Athens telegram announces the death of Mgr. Castell, Grand Rabbi of Greece.

The Times Simla Correspondent understands that the Constitutional Inquiry Committee, under the presidency of Sir A. P. Muddiman, re-assemble in the first week of August, and will continue their sittings throughout the month.

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THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1924.

RAS TAFARI OF ABYSSINIA.

The visit of the Prince Regent of Abyssinia to England is a picturesque episode in a notable year. Ras Tafari has been welcomed in London both for his own personality and as an outstanding figure in his generation. Appointed Regent of Abyssinia in 1916 at the age of twenty-five, he has been confronted for the last eight years with a task as difficult as any that has beset a ruler of the present day. The control that he has exercised has been nominally shared with the Empress, and he has had to consolidate his position in the face of jealousy, intrigue, and faction. Whatever may be thought of the admission of Abyssinia to the League of Nations, the fact remains that it is due to the initiative and statesmanship of the Prince Regent that his country's claim received favourable consideration. In the few years of his rule he has contrived to impress some of his own energy and ambition on a backward State, so that, even if he seemed ahead of his people in his request for Abyssinia's admission to the League, the latter's wise decision has done much to rally the nation to the support of its ruler in his effort to justify Abyssinia's membership. Nothing, perhaps, is more typical of the new spirit now animating the country than that not only should the Prince Regent break with tradition by being the first Abyssinian monarch to undertake a tour in Europe, but also that he should be accompanied by a substantial following from among the princes of the land. From this circumstance the mission acquires more importance than it would have had if the Prince Regent had been travelling without members of his Government, princely Governors of provinces and representatives of the feudal aristocracy. These will all return to Abyssinia, it is to be hoped, to become so many separate centres of civilising influence, in order that the good work inaugurated by Ras Tafari may proceed apace. To this end it is well that the brief official visit this week should be followed by an unofficial stay, which will enable the members of the Mission to see more of England and to gain a closer insight into the factors that underlie Great Britain's position in the world.

The regency of Abyssinia is no sinecure. Ras Tafari comes to this country with the reputation of an abnormal capacity for work and with the record of an excessive indulgence in it. It is well for a country to have driving force behind it, but it is better that it should not have to rely upon one man alone for that force. While, therefore, the Prince Regent is away, others will have a greater share of responsibility, and opportunity will be given of gauging the extent to which the exceptional talents of Ras Tafari have succeeded in raising the administrative standards of the country. One of the first things, it may be, that will impress him in his European tour will be that those who direct the affairs of far greater States than Abyssinia find more time for relaxation than he does. If he cares to probe the cause, he will discover it in the existence of a higher standard of intelligence more widely distributed among the people as a whole than is the case in Abyssinia. Administrative responsibility can thus be shared by a greater number, and it is no longer necessary to concentrate the whole burden of government on one pair of shoulders. The degree of knowledge and intelligence in a people depends on the standard of education, and it is in this direction that special efforts must be made if Abyssinia is to take in the family of nations the place to which she aspires. The adequate spread of education among a people is incompatible with the existence of slavery, and thus Abyssinia will be spurred to remove from her borders a system that has long since been condemned by the civilised world. Slavery with her may be robbed of some of its old horrors; but it gives rise to slave-trading, for which no justification nor excuse can be urged. In Abyssinia's case it is this slave trade that endangers her good relations with the European countries whose African possessions march with her territory, and the complete elimination of the traffic which would follow the abolition of slavery could not fail to increase the prestige of the country and its progressive ruler.

Not the least striking characteristic of the Prince Regent is his genius for hastening slowly. He has been content to consolidate his position gradually, refraining from the more spectacular methods, which make attractive reading, but inevitably play into the hands of opponents. This characteristic, we may hope, will stand him in good stead in the task of carrying the development of his country to a higher stage. Desire and attainment more often than not are separated by a wide gulf. Abyssinia will reach the goal she has in view more surely and more rapidly if she is content to tread the path of self-discipline and tuition. The quickest way to raise the administrative capacity of the nation to the standard required is to employ foreign advisers to assist not only in departments of State, but also in other posts of responsibility. The Abyssinians, who have only recently had brought home to them the necessity of modern ideas and modern methods for the satisfactory transaction of public affairs, will learn more easily by precept and example than if they are left to themselves to evolve a new order. Recent experience has shown that with the best will in the world trade cannot emancipate itself immediately from the shackles of bad communications, an inadequate currency system, and primitive methods. Western experience is needed to cope with all these drawbacks. For the construction of an imposing edifice the foundations must be dug deep. The Prince Regent, it will be imagined, will have a better chance of securing a port for Abyssinia on the Gulf of Aden if he can show that the trade of the country, released from the fetters that have hitherto handicapped it, will justify the request by offering in its increased volume adequate compensation for any privileges that may have to be abandoned. The time that the Mission is absent from its own country will be none too long to enable it to learn all that the countries of Europe will be able to teach it, to the lasting advantage of Abyssinia.

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CENTRAL ASIA—YESTERDAY AND TO-DAY.

Lord Curzon's Review.

For the third time in the history of the Central Asian Society the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston made an important speech at the annual dinner, which was held at the Hotel Victoria on July 3, under his chairmanship. With striking eloquence and power, he drew a contrast between the condition of Turkey, Russia, Persia, China, and other Asiatic Powers at the beginning of the century and the weakness and confusion by which they are afflicted to-day.

Lord Curzon was provided with a good starting-point by some observations of Earl Winterton, M.P., in proposing the toast of the Society. He expressed regret that the number of people interested in overseas problems was so small, and said that the longer he was in politics the more appalled he was at the tremendous ignorance of the country in the problems on which it had a deciding voice. On this part of his speech there was no challenge, but what Lord Curzon called in question was Lord Winterton's admission that he found Africa a far more interesting continent than Asia. He said he had some interest in Africa, and was one of those undesirable individuals who owned a large area of land there with the intention of exploiting it and getting what he could out of it and its wretched inhabitants. He felt it would be increasingly the case that the interests of Africa and Asia would conflict, and he thought the people of this country would be turning more toward Africa than toward Asia.

The Marquess Curzon, who was received with enthusiasm, while thanking Lord Winterton for his personal references, said he must enter an immediate and emphatic *caveat* on his declaration that Africa was not only of equal but of superior interest to Asia. That such a heresy should be preached by a sensible and competent man was to him incredible. (Laughter.) What was Africa? A country of sands and deserts—(laughter)—plentifully peopled with black men; an arena no doubt of great historical antiquity in the north and splendid British endeavour in the south and round the circumference. But it could not be compared with Asia—the great continent from which all religions, all ideas, all great achievements had sprung; the fountain-head of everything great that had come into the world from immemorial times; the birthplace of the most striking vicissitudes which had ever been witnessed by man; the scene of the greatest events in history; still the fertile source of inspiration and ideas. That a guest of the Central Asian Society should get up there to propose the toast of the Society and express an unqualified preference for Africa was an unbelievable atrocity. (Laughter.) The explanation made it no better, for from it they learned that it was based on sordid material interests. Asia had never brought the noble lord a rupee, and therefore he wiped out Asia, and explained to them his attachment to the miserable continent of which he truly said the inhabitants were wretched. (Loud laughter.)

I, at any rate, continued Lord Curzon, will not be a party to such heresy. I am here to speak of Central Asia, which is to me and many of those in this room the scene of recollections that charm almost more than anything else in the world. What is Central Asia? It is a country which for hundreds of years has appealed to the traveller, to the archæologist, to the man of affairs, to the writer, to anybody with an idea above the commonplace. Central Asia holds us by the magnificence of its surroundings and by the splendour of its surface. What is the appeal which Asia makes? It appeals, in the first place, to the spirit of enterprise and adventure. For hundreds of years the ablest pioneers in the world have selected Central Asia as the field of their exploration, or where they went for trade. It also had a marked appeal for the purposes of religion, and called forth the devotion of the friars of the Middle Ages. The call was also heard for purposes of trade by our own pioneers, and at a later date by those in the service of Government. The adventure and enterprise of which Central Asia is the scene has been one of the moving agencies in the history of the world.

Look at the long struggle for more than a century to unveil the mysterious land of Tibet, a work at last accomplished by Sir Francis Younghusband (cheers)—whom I am glad to see before me—in a mission under my auspices. Then again, look at the appeal that Central Asia has always made to the sense of beauty that exists in all of us. There is the communion with Nature that we achieve when we wander over those distant lands and view the great spaces, the mighty peaks, the solid glaciers, the rushing rivers, and all the other splendours of Nature in its manifold forms. Nobody has realised that to the same extent or expressed it so vividly as Sir Francis Younghusband in at least two of his books, one on the Himalayas recently published, and the other entitled "The Heart of a Continent." You will find in these books the communion with Nature which travel in Central Asia has enabled him to establish, getting to the core and centre of his being.

Then there is the appeal that Central Asia has always made and continues to make to the scientist, the naturalist, the ethnologist, and the antiquarian. I see before me Sir Aurel Stein. (Cheers.) Central Asia has made him deservedly famous in the history of travel and science. I am proud to have been the means of sending him out on the first of the great missions in which he has rendered so much service to Central Asia, and in which he has unfolded so many of its mysteries. Central Asia makes a further appeal which will strike home to many of us even more closely—the appeal of the sense of service and of duty. I am proud as an Englishman when I think of the services which have been rendered by our countrymen in these remote parts of the world, not only our officers serving on the frontier of India, introducing peace and keeping order among the tribes, but also by those sustaining the great name of England very often in circumstances of isolation and remoteness, and making the name of England respected among the people of those lands. For instance, Sir Charles Bell, spending some time at Lhasa, achieved successes which would have been incredible a few years ago, while similarly remarkable work spread over many years was done by Sir George Macartney at Kashgar. Such men, often having occasion to doubt whether they were upheld by the Government at home, have kept steadily on doing their work and sustaining the honour and glory of our Empire. (Cheers.)

The fact is that Central Asia appeals to the sense of service and of duty more than any corresponding area on the globe. When I talk of Central Asia I am not confining myself to the strict geographical limits of that term. If you look at the map you will see that geographically, Central Asia comprises Russian Turkestan, Chinese Turkestan, the Pamirs, Tibet, and Mongolia; but when we talk of Central Asia I think we mean something of very much wider application than that. For instance, we might argue that Turkey and the Turkish dominions are in a sense a European and Western problem. Constantinople has long been a great question of the Near East; but as you go eastwards you find that the Turkish question is an Asian question which overspreads the whole of Asia.

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Minor and flows to Persia and Afghanistan, and has exercised a vital influence during the last ten or twenty years in India. Therefore you find that Turkey, although in the region of its former capital a European Power, has been a great Central Asian Power and force.

So, also, China, associated in the popular conception with Japan as forming the Far East, is a great Central Asian Power and force. When you go into Central Asia you find in vast stretches Chinese rule and Chinese subjects. Just as on the one side you find Turkey, so on the other you find China, somehow or other forcing themselves into Central Asia and becoming part of the Central Asian problem. So to-night I am not talking of a relatively narrow geographical area, but I am talking about that real centre of the Asian Continent embracing at least half the peoples which inhabit the Continent. I was looking to-day at the last issue of your excellent *Journal*, and I find that you emphatically recognise the wide implications of the term "Asia." You have articles in this issue about Tibet, Persia, the downfall of the Khilafat, and the Indian Frontier. You will make a very great mistake if in the *Journal* you confined yourselves to the geographical Central Asia, for your purpose is to deal with the political Central Asia, and I hope that the editor of the *Journal* will always bear that cardinal point in mind, and will not restrict the wide area over which your activities have hitherto been spread. I think, if I may say so in passing, your *Journal* is a splendid production. I never take up a number and read its papers without recognising that they are written by experts, and that they contain information which could not be found anywhere else in the world. There is an atmosphere of seriousness about them which renders them invaluable contributions to human knowledge; and if this Society existed only for its *Journal*, if it never gave a dinner, it seems to me that its existence would be justified by this publication.

Here let me say a word about another journal which I wish to commend. It is the paper called THE NEAR EAST. Just as I said it is difficult to define Central Asia, so is it difficult to define the Near East, and I am glad to find in the weekly journal which bears that name articles about all parts of the Asiatic problem, which are to my mind of the greatest value, and I hope that the editor and proprietors will long continue to give them to the world. (Cheers.)

In dealing with the Central Asian problem the first thought that occurs to me is that of the astounding changes that have come over Central Asia during the last quarter of a century. I take the changes of that time because it is convenient to begin with the dawn of the century, and because my own experience of responsibility in dealing with any of these problems synchronises with the close of the nineteenth century. Just imagine the difference in the situation about the year 1900 and the present time. Turkey then had a Sovereign who was both Sultan and Khalif, who combined spiritual and temporal power which had been hereditary from almost immemorial times in the possession of one branch or another of the Turkish family. Turkey, no doubt, was not a great Power, though she thought herself so, but her possession of Constantinople and her great influence in Europe also enabled her to exercise a most potent influence throughout the whole of the Eastern world.

At that time Russia had a Tsar and an Imperial system believed to be deeply rooted in the affections of the Russian people. She spread abroad an influence and a power largely based upon military force, which was certainly, from the material point of view, one of the most tremendous agencies which ever existed in the world, and was a source of immense anxiety to ourselves. You had then as the perimeter of the Russian Empire large States in the Caucasus absorbed in her system and still retaining some measure of individual life. You had small monarchies filled by princes at Khiva and Bokhara, under Russian influence, still retaining some traces of their old resplendence and glory. Persia was held up between the rival arms of Russia and Great Britain, while Afghanistan at that time was ruled by a singularly powerful and capable Sovereign.

Further East we had the Empire of China with an Emperor at Peking, still shrouded in the mystery of the Forbidden City and surrounded by the almost unbelievable conservatism of its people. At one moment you were shocked by the weakness of China and at another moment appalled by its strength and its tremendousness because of the vast population under the rule of the Emperor. China at that time was so powerful that even in her feebleness you had men of imagination who thought and spoke of the Yellow Peril as calculated to confront and overwhelm the Western world.

That was the situation twenty-five years ago. What is the situation now? There has never been twenty-five years in the history of the world in which such tremendous change has been produced in the state of affairs of the great continent. Take Turkey: The Sultan gone, the Khalif gone, a sort of sham Republic set up which is merely a disguise for military despotism. Under this system she is making experiments of independence and hostility to the outside world, by which she and she alone will be the sufferer. The old Turkey has gone—irremediably gone—and whereas twenty-five years ago anybody who touched the Khalif or the spiritual and temporal power of the Sultan would have been almost immediately swept out of existence, that change has been effected with scarcely a murmur in the Mohammedan world. Look at Russia: The Tsar, the Imperial family, and the whole system of Imperialism have gone, with all its vast state and with its huge military force. It has crumbled away to a multiple collection of furtive Republics more or less bound together under the ægis of the Soviet Government at Moscow. That is not only an immense change, but a deplorable disaster, because whether we approved of the Russian Empire or not, at any rate there was stability, cohesion, and strength, whereas now there are a number of jarring atoms called democracies, crushed under the heel of a relentless despotism, masquerading in the disguise of a Republic.

Then take Persia, which exists for the moment held together by the arm of a rather strong man, but with an absentee Sovereign whom she does not seem particularly desirous to welcome back to the country, sinking deeper and deeper into the bonds of destitution and feebleness. Khiva has gone, Bokhara has gone; Afghanistan, it is true, still exists as a kingdom, but with a dynasty liable, as you all know, to great personal vicissitudes. And what is now the former great Empire of China? It is neither an Empire nor a Republic; it is nothing more than a great splash on the map—an amorphous collection of human beings without government, without cohesion, without solidity, and with nothing except their vast numbers. China is split up into a series of small, independent governorships under military dictators, who collect the taxes, amuse themselves, despise

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the Central Government, and do exactly what they will.

That is the condition to which Asia has been reduced in the last twenty-five years, and whereas a quarter of a century ago you would have said that that continent was the quarter of the globe where the most deeply embedded conservatism prevailed, where ancient monarchies were more firmly established than elsewhere, you will find to-day in the whole of the East only three kings—the Shah of Persia, the Ameer of Afghanistan, and the King of Siam. There are, it is true, other Kings dotted about here and there, but they are merely linnets singing in gilded cages. (Laughter and cheers.) The whole of that vast organisation which seemed to be so firmly founded has been swept into space.

What is all this due to? I think it has been due in the main to two causes. In the first place, it is due to the existence of the grotesque illusion that Parliamentary institutions which are essentially the outcome of Western thought and ideas are suitable to Eastern peoples. (Cheers.) The decay of Asia began on the very day which saw the introduction of Parliamentary institutions. It is not an exaggeration, it is a profound truth I speak. Take the National Assembly at Angora—a body which affects to be not only a legislative assembly, but also to have executive powers, but which is being very properly put in its place by Kemal Pasha. The Persian Mejliss has had a deplorable history of vicissitude. The Parliament of China only exists because it never meets—(laughter)—although you will see it gravely referred to in any work of reference as a part of the Constitution of the country. These Eastern nations have adopted experiments of Western origin, based on Western experience, and they have been, and will be, deplorable failures.

In the second place, the decay of Asia is due to an aggressive spirit of nationalism, which has received great impetus from the War, partly racial, partly religious, and partly political, which has led these people to believe that they are not only as good as we are, but are better. They have seen in their contact with Western civilisation its weaknesses, its foibles, its troubles, its disasters, and there has arisen in them the idea, partly based on a mistaken reading of their own history and partly on ignorance of world conditions, that they are capable of resuming the position they held in antiquity and of recovering for themselves the supremacy which they once enjoyed.

These are, I believe, the two explanations of the terrible, lamentable, collapse of Central Asia in the last quarter of a century. Here I come to the application of my reflections. Is there any hope for the future of Central Asia? I cannot make a confident prediction any more than anyone else at this table. Prophesying in Asia has always been a dangerous thing. (Laughter.) Accordingly as the prophets existed on a large or smaller scale, so they were known as major or minor prophets. Both made mistakes, and to-night I am not going to array myself in the robe of either a major or a minor prophet. I cannot say how things are going to work out in the future, except that I think that for the time being, at any rate, the process will be downwards, not upwards. But in this area of chaos and dissolution there is yet one great dominion still intact with its frontiers still untouched—one great Empire still, I believe, capable of exhibiting those virtues and setting that example which may help, at any rate, to arrest, if not stay, the decline of Central Asia. I allude to the Indian Empire of Great Britain. (Cheers.) Here you still have British rule, although shaken, supreme; still you have the frontiers of India untouched by external invasion; still you have Englishmen devoting to their great work in the East, the strength and substance of their lives. The duty imposed on us from on high still lies on the British race. Let us not take our hands from the plough.

Lord Winterton spoke despondently about the work of England abroad, and about the ignorance of these matters at home. There may have been some truth in his remarks. At the same time, I should be reluctant to proclaim myself a pessimist in these matters. I see that things in India are not what they were. I see feelings, ambitions, and aspirations rising amongst the people that it will be difficult to satisfy without some sacrifice of our position and our greatness. I see the services which have brought about such astounding progress in India to some extent disheartened and discouraged. But now, ladies and gentlemen, is the time to brace ourselves together before it is too late. Believe me, no Englishman can perform a greater service now to his country than to devote himself to the re-establishment in Asia of that influence which has built up our strength and our reputation in the world. Let there be no dealing with unclean things in our work in that Continent. Let us preserve our frontiers, keep our armies sufficiently strong to maintain the peace; let us support our services; let us teach our people that it is still worth while to go out there to labour, to struggle, to fight, to maintain the high traditions of the British services in those parts of the world. In doing so you are not merely keeping the flag flying and sustaining the honour and glory of England, but you are making a contribution to the stability of Asia and to the restitution of a state of strength which seems almost for the time being to have disappeared.

I suppose I have not been making exactly an after-dinner speech except for the few remarks with which I began. But you must pardon me, because to me Central Asia and Asia generally mean much more than anything else in the world. I have devoted the greater part of my life to Asia, and it is a field ever in my thoughts. I have written about little else than Asia, and you must forgive me if, even on a festive occasion, I have tried to convey to you the thoughts which are moving in my mind, and to get you to understand that Asia is not merely a continent where strong men make hazardous journeys under difficult conditions, but a focus of moral duty and responsibility. The work of the recovery of Asia rests upon us and upon our people, and we must attack it so that the blame for any failure may not be in us. It has given me the greater pleasure to have said so much about India as the pivot from which recovery can be exercised because of the presence of Sir George Lloyd—(loud cheers)—just back from Bombay. He is one of those young Englishmen who, at every phase of public life, show a keen interest in the external responsibilities of Great Britain for which I have been pleading to-night. He is an intrepid traveller, a great authority on the East, and his heart is full of the ideas which I have been presenting. There came to him while still young the great opportunity to go out to Bombay, where, with the assistance, if I may say so, of his charming wife, Lady Lloyd—(cheers)—he enjoyed a popularity which has not been exceeded by any of his predecessors. In the sphere of administration he showed not only imagination, but courage—and it is a great thing in the Government of India for the English administrator to have courage. He always stood for high ideals, and was prepared to sacrifice much for them. (Cheers.)

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Sir George Lloyd's Speech.

Sir George Lloyd, who was enthusiastically received, took up the parable where Lord Curzon left it by remarking that the tranquillity of the countries which flanked India on its north and north-western approaches, and the relations between them and ourselves to-day, was the most important question confronting our Indian policy. In view of the changes taking place in India itself, it was of prime importance to us that India should not be an island in a sea of disturbed States round her, and it fell to our lot now, as before, to be the main factor in the pacification and resettlement of those adjacent territories. Respecting the Turkish situation, he remarked that while her public debt remained repudiated, and while British traders were harassed in their most ordinary commercial dealings in Turkish territory, there was perhaps little to be done in that country. But, with a long and happy remembrance of the qualities of the Turkish people, he did not believe that their exaggerated secularism or their ostracising nationalism was more than a passing phase, and he trusted that when prudence and moderation returned England would be the first to assist Turkey in the formation of her new future.

Sir George Lloyd confessed to having returned from India a good deal exercised, not so much in regard to the particular structure of this policy or that (for where there was good will and accord in a mutual purpose almost any structure would serve), but more in regard to the uncertain touch with which we seemed often to be handling the delicate position in India to-day. He believed that the reforms, alien as ideas of democracy undoubtedly were to the people, and based no doubt on a fallacious idea of the existence of a national united Indian feeling not yet materialised, could still be made workable and in a sense successful, given three things. The first was that the authority and power of the Central Government was not allowed to be impaired; the second that the maximum rate of progress in constitutional development must be laid down rigidly, adhered to, and not made subject to sporadic and intermediate revisions; and, thirdly, that the Indianisation of the administrative services should be made more slowly than, and always subsequent in each stage to, any added transfer of political power. His anxiety to-day was lest the reforms should risk a breakdown for lack of the observance of these essential conditions. He believed that most of the surface unrest in India was due to a belief in India that we did not know our own mind, and that our policy could be made alterable according as the gusts of newspaper or partisan demands indicated. Much of the distrust with which the politician of extreme views regarded us in India to-day was due to a lack of candour on our part toward their aspirations. He believed that this distrust could be dissipated if we had the courage to speak more frankly on what did and did not conflict with British interests in India. Five years in India had convinced him so fully of the wealth of real loyalty and warm feeling that permeated the vast mass of the peoples of India that he believed that it was the uncertainty of our policy that led more than anything to the doubt and distrust of our intentions toward India's future. (Cheers.)

The company included Lady Lloyd, Field-Marshal Sir Arthur Barrett, Sir Francis Younghusband, Lord Lamington, General Sir Edmund Barrow and Lady Barrow, Lieut.-General Sir Raleigh Egerton and Lady Egerton, Sir Hugh Barnes and Lady Barnes, Lieut.-General Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston and Lady Hunter-Weston, Sir Michael O'Dwyer, Colonel Sir Charles Yate, Sir Henry Bax-Ironside and Lady Bax-Ironside, Sir William Willcox, Sir William Geary, Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Tothill, Captain Staveley, Major-General H. C. Sutton, Sir Thomas and Lady Bennett, Sir Edgar Bonham-Carter, Major-General Sir Claude Bray, Sir George Buchanan, Sir Armine Dew, Sir Henry Gibson, Sir Arbuthnot Lane and Lady Lane, Khan Bahadur Mirza Muhammed, Sir E. Penton and Lady Penton, Brig.-General R. Pigot and Mrs. Pigot, Sir Malcolm Robertson, Sir Aurel Stein, General Sir William Thomson, Sir Arnold Wilson, and Brig.-General M. E. Willoughby.

TURKISH REPARATIONS.

The Commission established under the Convention of November 23, 1923, for the assessment and reparation of damage suffered in Turkey by the nationals of the Contracting Powers is about to hold preliminary meetings in Paris. The Joint Fund to be used by this Commission for the reparation of the damage (as defined in the Convention) amounts to nearly six million pounds. The British delegate is Mr. H. E. Garle, who left this week for Paris, accompanied by Mr. Cyril M. Bell, who is acting as secretary to the Delegation.

Owing to the recent frontier incidents the Italian and Yugoslav Governments have appointed a Joint Commission to make a full inquiry.

The *Pioneer* (Allahabad) learns from Teheran that the editor of the *Twentieth Century*, a strong anti-Republican, has been shot dead in the street. Political significance is attached to the crime.

According to news from Meshed (Persia), Salar Amjad, who had recently been relieved of his command of a brigade of the Persian Army, has been arrested on suspicion of his complicity in incidents involving the death of a staff officer.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday, Morning.

Sudan Plantations Syndicate.

The interim dividend of 10 per cent. which has been declared by the Sudan Plantations Syndicate is 2½ per cent. higher than the distribution at the same time a year ago. Shareholders in this enterprise may regard themselves as very fortunate, seeing that, provided there are no unforeseen developments, the time will obviously not be far distant when they will be receiving a really substantial return.

Another Year?

While a definite decision has not been taken yet, it seems highly probable that the Wembley Exhibition will be continued for another year. Among the exhibitors opinion appears to be generally in favour of that course. At the commencement it was somewhat open to doubt as to whether the great expenditure entailed in the Exhibition would be justified, but no one would question it now. Throughout the attendances have gradually tended to increase, and, what is equally important, so has the business, which has so far exceeded anticipations. As a medium for promoting inter-Imperial trade and for furthering the development of British industry, Wembley, in short, has been a unique success, and next year there is no reason to think that it will not have equally happy results, for there will be far more visitors from abroad when they have heard all about the wonders of the Exhibition from those who have seen it.

P. and O. Banking Corporation.

The adverse conditions that prevailed in the past year are reflected by a slight decline in the net profits of the P. and O. Banking Corporation for the twelve months ended March 31 last, the figures being £136,400, which with the amount brought forward gives a disposable balance of £152,000. It is proposed to maintain the dividend at 5½ per cent., and to place £20,000 to the reserve, as against £25,000, bringing it to £135,000, carrying forward £17,567. It was emphasised by Lord Inchcape at the last general meeting that the policy of the board was one of prudence, and that they aimed at gradually working up a sound and lucrative business and building up reserves. The present report is eminently satisfactory, and considering the short time in which the bank has been in existence the figures of the balance-sheet provide eloquent testimony to its development and the strength of its position.

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

The surplus profits of the Bengal Nagpur Railway for the year ended March 31 last have been affected by the disastrous cyclone of November, and at Rs. 4,04,000, representing £28,500, compare with Rs. 5,71,700, or £32,100, for the previous period. For the two previous years the shareholders received 6 per cent., including guaranteed interest. They now receive in addition to the guaranteed interest of £1 15s. an interim distribution of 15s., making £2 10s. for the half-year, as compared with £3 for the corresponding period last year.

Oriental Telephone and Electric.

At the general meeting of the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company Sir George Gibb, the chairman, was able to give a most encouraging review of the situation of the company. "I can congratulate the proprietors," he said, "on the sound financial position of their undertaking, and on the favourable prospects to which we can look forward after the works of new construction have been completed and the charges for telephone services have been placed, as they soon will be, on a satisfactory footing." The company's history has been one of steady growth. In this connection Sir George cited the progressive increase of gross revenue. Starting from 1900, and excluding the figures of the Egyptian undertaking, the gross revenue had doubled in eight years. The new figure was doubled again in the next six years, and again in the succeeding six years, and in twenty-three years the gross revenues have multiplied thirteen and a half times. These figures speak for themselves.

Roumania as a Market.

Elsewhere will be found extensive extracts from the report of Mr. Adams on conditions in Roumania in 1923 dealing with the import trade of that country. Those who are familiar with the Near East markets realise to the full that, speaking generally, British traders are not taking anything like adequate advantage of the openings for enterprise that present themselves there. Unfortunately it is difficult to persuade our business men that these openings exist, and that if they do it is possible to make use of them, and I can only hope that they will carefully read what Mr. Adams has to say with regard to Roumania as a market. He emphasises the point that there are openings, and that trade can be obtained in such lines as machinery, etc. It is the business of our traders to utilise these opportunities.

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British Consular Reports.

III.—ROUMANIA.

The Market Position.

The following extracts are taken from the report on the financial, commercial, and economic conditions in Roumania in 1923 of the Commercial Secretary to the British Legation at Bucharest, Mr. Alexander Adams :—

The vitality and continuity of British trade with Roumania in the staple articles of export is its most striking feature. Cotton manufactures and yarns, shirtings, calicoes, iron bars, sheet iron, agricultural machinery, and coal have formed the backbone of British-Roumanian trade for over fifty years. The reputation of British goods in these branches has in no way diminished. The persistence of British trade in the above articles has since been added to by the woollen trade and in the iron and steel trade by wire ropes, tin and terne plates, etc. A parallel could be drawn between British trade in 1872 and the present time. Broadly speaking, the same articles form the bulk of British imports into Roumania (with the exception of earthenware), and the same articles that in 1872 were apparently unable to enter this market in competition with those of foreign manufacturers seem still unable to do so. It will be seen, however, that there did exist a limited market for certain types of goods of the very best quality of British manufacture. Such a market will always exist in the larger towns where there is any focus of wealthier people, and this broad distinction between the ordinary article of commerce and that which constitutes the so-called "luxury trade" should be borne in mind by the British exporter. There is always a certain limited sale for luxury goods of the best quality in Bucharest and one or two other towns in Roumania, and, although the difficulties contingent upon breaking into this trade at the moment are more than usually great, yet, judging from previous experience, the results are likely to be appreciable.

Adverse Conditions.

The general conditions in the import trade during 1923 have been such as to discourage new departures or big orders on the part of importers. As a rule the importer has followed the line of least resistance and, when confronted with offers from various exporters in foreign countries, has usually chosen to adopt the course which would involve him in the least risk. This means that when offered goods from one or two sources he has chosen those coming from manufacturers or exporters who were willing to put goods down on consignment terms, or offer him terms of payment as and when the goods were disposed of. So far British exporters have not entered into competition to any extent along these lines, and it is true that business under such conditions always offers a certain amount of risk, especially with a currency not yet stabilised. In the face of such competition it must have been difficult for British exports to hold their own in 1923, and the achieved results were distinctly encouraging, showing as they do some slight increase over 1922. With the shortage of money and high interest rates it is difficult for importers to purchase goods the turnover of which will take some time. With a return to more normal markets, however, it seems probable that the demand for British goods of all kinds will increase. A population engaged in agricultural pursuits can most conveniently pay its bills about harvest time when crops are marketed. Roumania being primarily an agricultural country, and the eventual consumers consisting as they do of about 85 per cent. of rural population, terms of credit have always been slightly longer than those customary in more highly industrialised countries. This should be borne in mind by British exporters.

Trade Openings.

In nearly every branch of trade there are opportunities for placing British goods in this market. The principal condition for successful marketing is that the British exporter or manufacturer should be in as close touch as possible with his customer, for instance, in the motor-car trade no determined attempt has yet been made by British makers to compete. Italian and Austrian makers send fairly large shipments of cars to this market on consignment terms to agents. The British maker has not so far done this, and, indeed, there are other methods of entering the market. Such is the reputation of British cars that it would seem possible for them to command slightly higher prices than foreign made cars of similar type. If a large maker, or possibly two or three makers in conjunction could set up their own representative in Roumania under such terms as would allow the latter to open a large repair shop, and, above all, if he were possessed of sufficient capital to enable him to employ two or three reliable mechanics well acquainted with the makes handled by their employer, there is every reason to expect that cars could be sold.

There are one or two elementary conditions which they would have to fulfil. A good clearance is advisable because of the bad roads in the country, and for the same reason the springing should be specially good, and some type of shock absorber should be handled by the representative along with the cars. Fairly foolproof lighting and starting systems are a necessity, and such things as all weather tops, back seat screens, and four-wheel brakes would add to the attractiveness of any car. A strongly built British-made car would probably sell even in competition with larger power cars from Italy and Austria.

Similar general conditions as regards methods of marketing apply to the sale of rubber tyres for motor-cars. A large stock of the necessary sizes should be held in the country, and dealers supplied therefrom immediately upon request. So far practically no British-made tyres have been sold in Roumania since the Armistice, and there seems no reason why this should be so, although just at the present time the French manufacturer would seem to be favoured to some extent by the recent fall in the value of the French franc. This point may have helped the French maker, but the same argument can hardly apply to the American tyres found here and sold by several of the principal dealers. It would seem that the extra freight from the United States across the Atlantic has not constituted an effective barrier to the competition of the American-made tyres against French tyres

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in Roumania. This may have something to do with the quality of American tyres and their durability in a country with poor roads. At the same time the British maker should be able to compete.

In connection with the motor-car trade there would also seem to be a certain market for the sale of accessories such as back-seat screens, lighting and starting installations, and pumps, in addition to tyres. These things would need advertising, and stocks would have to be kept in Bucharest, whilst in most cases it would be advisable that the accessory should be handled and mounted by a mechanic or workman familiar with it.

Other examples of British manufactured articles which could be sold here are jams and preserves, tinned foods, tinned molasses and food specialities such as sauces and biscuits, etc. These articles come under the general heading of the luxury trade, and always command a ready sale in limited quantities. This means that the exporter must, if necessary, be prepared to make up mixed cases of various kinds of goods to suit smallish orders, do a certain amount of advertising, have a good agent, hold stocks in the country, and push sales.

Market for Tea and Coffee.

In tea and coffee and colonial goods generally there is a trade to be opened out Not only tea in bulk, but also tea in packages and tins can be sold in Roumania, and the quality of English packed tea seems to be understood. There is, of course, severe competition as regards package tea to be met with from Hamburg, but the better facilities for shipment from Great Britain would redound in favour of the British exporter if he could be induced to consider the question of advertising, and to send out a capable representative. Coffee in Roumania appears to come principally from Continental sources of supply, but here again, with the better facilities for shipment now existing from Great Britain, there seems no reason why this should be so. Indeed, some purchases have already been made in 1923.

So far as can be ascertained, the import of British extra hard yarns fell short of normal during 1923, but this seems due to the lessening in the flow of imports as a whole rather than to any special factor. The sale of British cottons to Transylvanian houses was hampered by transport delays from the ports, and, in consequence many of the Transylvanian merchants obtained their supplies from Italy by rail over Trieste. This route is apparently quicker than importing by sea to Galatz or Constantza, and thence by rail to Transylvania. The same fact favours imports of cotton goods from Czecho-Slovakia, where the goods come direct from the factory in that country to the merchant's warehouse in Roumania. In addition, Czecho-Slovakia exporters are aided by their long experience in catering for the needs of Transylvanian merchants. It must be remembered that until the war both Czecho-Slovakia and Transylvania formed part of the Austro-Hungarian Zollverein.

During the first half of the year severe competition was met with from Polish textiles. This was something new in the history of British trade with Roumania. Polish competition was a direct consequence of the last war. With the secession of Polish territory from Russia the big factories of Lodz found themselves deprived of their pre-war markets, and naturally turned to Bessarabia, which had now become part of Roumania, and to Roumania itself to supply their lack. The goods manufactured, although of low quality as compared with British goods, are sold at prices commensurate with their quality, and it may, therefore, be expected that the market in Roumania for low-grade cotton goods will temporarily be subject to competition from Polish exporters. Both the Czecho-Slovak and the Polish manufacturer have direct rail communication with their customer in Roumania, and have only one customs barrier to pass.

In the cotton trade the model type of organisation for sales in Roumania seems to be either that of a home buying firm with a branch to Roumania, or a Roumanian selling firm with a buying branch abroad. Both these types of organisation seem to work well, and the stress is laid upon one or the other side in accordance with the nationality or the interests of the partners in the firm. In both cases large stocks of goods are held in Roumania, and very close touch is kept with customers, whilst buying orders are gauged carefully both as to quantity and styles.

To sum up, the British exporter has to expect competition in low-grade goods from Poland and Czecho-Slovakia, in addition to the long-standing competition in slightly better-class goods from Italy. On the other hand, in staple articles such as greys, whites, prints, and dyed goods, British trade seems able to hold its own.

Chemicals, etc.

In view of the difficulties of securing goods from Germany, there seems a further opening for British manufacturers to supply chemicals to this market. Something could also be done in patent medicines, drugs, and pharmaceutical preparations. Advertising would be essential, as there is strong competition from imported and locally manufactured goods of this type.

The trade in higher grade woollens is predominantly British in character, whilst a good trade is done in goods of lower quality. In this trade there are two methods of transacting business which seem to meet with success. One is the old system under which the large exporting merchant of London or the North sells in fairly small shipments to importers on this side. There are exporting merchants in England who do a very large business in this manner. These people do not manufacture the goods which they sell, but purchase from the Yorkshire mills those qualities and styles which appeal to the Roumanian market. Other exporting merchants have solved the problem of sales in Roumania by sending out their own representative, who handles large stocks of goods and remits payments home. For the adoption of this method it is, of course, necessary

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to have an honest and experienced representative available. Perhaps during the last two years, with the fluctuating exchange and the necessity for keeping a close watch upon prices, as well as taking favourable opportunities for the purchase of exchange and the remission of funds, this method of working has given better results than the former, where goods are sold outright to the local importer.

So far back as the seventies British agricultural machinery was a considerable item in Roumanian imports, and right up to just before the War a considerable trade was done. Part of this trade was transferred to Austria-Hungary and Germany by the British firms interested opening factories in those countries from which it was easier to supply the Roumanian market than direct from Great Britain. Thus it was that the greater part of the agricultural machinery came from these countries before the War, although in its origin a good deal of it was British, and British capital was interested in the works supplying it. The situation of these firms was very much disturbed by the War, whilst post-War financial and agricultural conditions in Roumania have been such that no extensive sales policy has been undertaken by them. The breaking-up of the large estates into peasant holdings has lessened the market for big machinery until some form of effective co-operation between the peasants can be instituted under which they will be enabled to use the larger machines in common. In the majority of cases the old landowner was left with more machinery than was necessary for the cultivation of the lands remaining to him, whilst the new peasant proprietor had no machinery.

Machinery and Agricultural Implements.

For smaller machinery and agricultural implements there exists a potentially larger market than before the war, because each peasant makes an attempt to own all the tools and implements necessary for the cultivation of his little holding. In this branch, competition is severe from machinery and implement makers established in Transylvania, as well as from Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, and Germany.

Several English houses did a considerable trade in such articles before the War, and it seems likely that, with the gradual completion of the rural land reforms and the settlement of the peasant on his holding, trade could be developed to a much greater extent by British manufacturers, aided as they undoubtedly are at the moment by the economic disorganisation of Germany.

In this trade it would perhaps pay British makers to instal a branch establishment in Roumania and ship tools, implements, and small machinery direct from Great Britain to this country instead of working Roumania from Austria or Germany. A possible alternative would be the establishment of finishing or fitting works in Roumania itself, although in this case it would be advisable to interest Roumanian firms in the venture. More especially in this regard there is one point which should be borne in mind, and that is the increased purchasing power of the peasant following on the rural land reforms. This increased purchasing power will undoubtedly, in the first instance, affect the demand for tools and machinery necessary for the cultivation of the land, whilst in a secondary degree it will be reflected in the whole of the market for imported manufactured goods owing to the adoption of a higher standard of living by these new landowners.

The machinery for nearly all the factories, saw-mills, flour mills, printing establishments and distilleries in Roumania has hitherto been supplied from Austria and Germany. This renders any efforts to enter this market rather difficult, the more so as many of the mechanics and engineers running these enterprises have received their technical education in Germany, and are more familiar with German installations. In the past French firms have been able to secure orders for printing machinery, but a few years before the War this trade fell into the hands of Germany.

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HAMILTON'S OIL CONCESSIONS.

Following a visit to the properties of Hamilton's Oil Concessions (Roumania) of the chairman, managing director, and consulting engineer of the company, a circular has been issued to the shareholders which states:—The Gura Ocnitei oilfield, on which the company is drilling, is authoritatively accepted as one of the richest in the country, and the Hamilton Company is fortunate in having 64 acres in the centre of that field. This area is surrounded by a number of wells from which a large production is being obtained, and recently the Phœnix No. 4, within 100 ft. of the Hamilton Company's boundary, came in with a large flow. The Hamilton Company's area at Gura Ocnitei is now acknowledged as proved. The company's well, which is being drilled by the rotary system, has reached a depth of 842 metres, and as the oil horizon should be entered at about 900 metres, production from this well may be looked for at an early date. The two wells, which are being drilled by the less rapid percussion system, are being strenuously pushed on and should intersect the oil sands shortly, the greatest depth reached being 698 metres. Work on the first new well comprised in the board's further drilling programme is progressing satisfactorily, and is being pressed on with the utmost dispatch. The directors are taking into their close consideration a more extended and intensive drilling programme.

TENDERS INVITED.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Construction of a Metallic Bridge over the Mahmoudieh Canal at Karmous.—The Municipality of Alexandria invites tenders for the construction of a metallic bridge over the Mahmoudieh Canal at Karmous. September 23. (D.O.T.)

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-97⅝
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	251-254
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	360-365
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	24.26
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 -1.5 1/64
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	95¾
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	1060
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	355,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5-1.5 1/64
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	855-870
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.33⅝-4.33¾
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	84.10-84.20
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	147¾
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	101⅜
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	585-605
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	306-309,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	—	22.50-22.60

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Shipping Intelligence.

CONDITIONS AT GALATZ IN 1923.

Communications by land, both rail and road, are still unsatisfactory and liable to be interrupted altogether in the winter when the frost is severe or the snow is deep (says Mr. L. M. Robinson, H.M. Consul-General, Galatz, in a report on conditions in 1923). As the river is usually closed by ice at the same time, the disadvantage is not felt as much as it would otherwise be, but it occasions difficulty and delay in distributing imports and collecting exports. River communications have improved. The normal depth over the bar at Sulina is now 22 ft., and, in the summer and autumn, as much as 23 and 24 ft. were reported. The new dredgers of the European Commission have done good service in maintaining the depth. The river remained open up to the end of the year, and loading and discharging continued till then, though few vessels ran the risk entailed, and one steamer was eventually caught.

The port facilities have been greatly improved by the two galvanised iron warehouses, each with a capacity of 2,500 tons, and the electric cranes (four with a lifting capacity of 2½ tons and one of 40 tons) recently erected. All cargo can now be put under cover; hitherto part of the general cargo landed has been discharged on to the quay, where it was liable to rapid deterioration.

Official statistics of exports and imports are not yet available. The harvest was later than usual. Considerable quantities of grain came down the rivers in lighters for shipment from November onwards, but only a part could be shipped before the ice came. . . . The recent removal of the export restrictions on wheat and rye will stimulate export and considerable quantities of grain were expected to go out in the early part of 1924. The principal articles exported were maize, barley, oats, beans, and timber, and, to a lesser degree, dried fruits and walnuts. About 500,000 tons of grain were shipped from the Danube during the first five months, and some 600,000 tons during the last three and a half months of the year. These two periods cover the principal export seasons, so that the total exports of grain from the Danube during 1923 may be put in the neighbourhood of 1.2 million tons. During the same two periods, exports of timber amounted to some 580,000 cubic metres, but considerable quantities were also shipped from the middle of June to the middle of September, for which no figures are at present obtainable.

The United Kingdom took a relatively small proportion of the exports, which went mainly to Antwerp and Rotterdam, but the export of timber to the United Kingdom showed a fair increase over previous years. Imports from the United Kingdom through Galatz consisted mainly of coal, tin plates, black plates, bar iron, chemicals, oils, cotton piece goods, and yarns. Quantities were smaller than in 1922, particularly in cotton piece goods and yarn, in which competition from Poland and Italy made itself felt.

Messrs. Francis Wells and Co., Ltd., are now working a new regular fast service between London and the Near East. There are two departures weekly, and the approximate times of transit from London are as follows:—Bratislava 20 days, Belgrade 24 days, Orsova 28 days, Turnu Severin 28 days, Giurgiu 28 days, Rustchuk 26 days, and Lom Palanka 26 days. The service to Vienna takes 18 days and to Budapest 21 days.

SHIPPING AND TRADE AT BRAILA IN 1923.

A shortage of most kinds of foreign manufactured goods, especially those of good quality, was felt during 1923 (says Mr. C. H. A. Marriott, British Vice-Consul, Braila, in his report for 1923) Braila is not of importance as an importing centre, but in this year imports of general merchandise dwindled to insignificant proportions. The import of coal increased.

The balance of last year's (1922) grain crop was exported during the beginning of the year, and some local exporters lost heavily on consignments of bad maize. The river was not closed during the winter 1922-1923, but few shipowners took the risk of sending their ships up the Danube before March.

The 1923 crop was about a month late in reaching the ports and charterers who had hoped for good business during August and September found themselves with several steamers on their hands and without any cargo for them. The export season did not begin until the end of September, and from then until the end of the year grain was exported in quantities. Exporters still had cause to complain of the lack of organisation in the railway system, and whereas before the War from 500 to 900 trucks of grain would arrive daily, it was an event for a single train to arrive during 1923. During September and October the river was exceptionally low, and delays in bringing lighters from up-stream to the seaports were experienced. The improvement in the value of the leu during October, and lasting until the close of the year, also upset the market. The exports of grain were about equal to those of 1922, and the quantity of timber again showed an increase.

The chief exports in British ships were maize (120,000 tons against 55,000 tons in 1922); barley (101,000 tons against 110,000 tons in 1922); beans (17,000 tons against 16,000 tons in 1922); timber (19,000 tons against 15,000 tons in 1922).

There was an increase of some 4 per cent. or 5 per cent. in the total shipping resorting to the port, whilst British shipping lost its place at the

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head of shipowning countries to the Italians, the number of whose ships visiting Braila was almost doubled in 1923 in comparison with former years. It is known that the Black Sea ports afforded more favourable conditions than Danube ports, and this may be a reason for the decline in British shipping. Many British owners fixed their steamers to load at Russian Black Sea ports, where the British flag has predominated in recent months.

The decline in Greek tonnage is attributed to the disturbed conditions in the Levant. Of the 49 Greek ships which arrived in 1923, 37 entered during the last three months of the year. Dutch and German ships continued to increase in number. America has dropped out of the Danube trade, while Hungarian and Yugoslav vessels show increases in number. Figures relating to tonnage are not procurable. According to the figures of the Captain of the Port, 40,134,359 metric tons of general merchandise were brought in 1923 in sea-going ships, against 45,327,098 metric tons in 1922. 895,326,934 metric tons (against 640,213,687 metric tons in 1922) and 87,153,822 metric tons (against 61,105,462 metric tons in 1922) of other merchandise, giving a total of 982,480,756 metric tons (against 701,319,149 metric tons in 1922), were exported in sea-going ships.

British ships carried 49.45 per cent. (against 41.6 per cent. in 1922) of the imports and 27.52 per cent. (against 38.1 per cent. in 1922) of the exports.

The Turkish Government has decided to institute a monopoly of the manufacture, importation, and sale of matches as from September 27 next. As from that date matches will be imported and sold exclusively on behalf of the Government.

THE LATE SIR WILLIAM COOPER.

We regret to announce the death of Sir William Earnshaw Cooper, C.I.E., which occurred on July 2 at Castle Carey, Guernsey, at the age of 81. He proceeded to India as an indigo planter, and subsequently founded, with Sir George Allen, the famous firm of Cooper, Allen, and Co., of Cawnpore, of which he was chairman for many years. He was elected president of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce on the establishment of that body, and represented it for a number of years in the United Provinces Legislature. He took a keen interest in the Volunteer movement in India. He was the author of a number of books on political and social questions. He received the C.I.E. in 1897 and was knighted in 1903.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Circassia for Bombay (Liverpool, July 22).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Salisbury for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 14).

Johnston Line.—M.v. Sycamore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, July 12); s.s. Incemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 9).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Narkunda for Bombay (London, July 11); s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 12).

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MARSEILLES: 41-43, Rue Grignan.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Dull.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended June 26, state :—

The market during the past week has been very irregular; the net changes on the week are :—Sakellarides : $1.00 down for July, $0.78 down for November, $0.60 down for January. Ashmouni : $2.70 down for August, $1.50 down for October, $1.30 down for December.

From the commencement of the week the market began to show signs of nervousness. Trade conditions did not show any signs of improvement, and this induced liquidation by holders of old crops, whilst the good progress made by the new crop, and the fact that American crop news was also much more satisfactory brought speculators into the market selling the distant positions. The Sakel contract has been decidedly more steady than Ashmouni; on the week, July shows a loss of $1.00 against $2.70 by August and November—a loss of 0.78 points against $1.50 by October. There has been a good deal of straddle selling of October against purchases of November, and the difference between these two positions is now $7.08. Although old crops are rapidly losing interest, the following figures will not be uninteresting :—Stock at this date in Alexandria, 634,000 krs.; probable arrivals to August 31 (including new cotton), 100,000 krs.; total, 734,000 krs. Exports have recently been averaging about 80,000 kantars a week. Last year from this date to August 31 they averaged about 60,000 kantars a week, and to assume that the exports this year will be on the same basis will be to reduce the stock dangerously low, for a considerable part of the stock consists of low grade cotton, unsuitable for spinning. Prices at this time last year were in the neighbourhood of $30 for fully good fair Sakel, whilst fully good fair Sakel is to-day worth $45. Sakel new crops at this date last year stood at a premium, whilst even for Uppers the discount for the new crop was very small; this year the reverse is the case, and with present prices and the existing big new crop discounts, exports from now on will, we think, be so reduced as to leave the carry-over at a figure, which, although small, will be rather more than generally anticipated. Trade is not good, and takings can, we think, be cut down without any great effort. We anticipate that old crop prices will gradually decline as the season draws to a close, although certain grades, of which there is hardly any supply, may command fancy prices. The week's receipts amount to 112 krs., against exports 65,876 krs.; the stock stands at 634,212 krs.

Spot.—Sales this week amount to about 4,100 B/s, of which we estimate 3,500 B/s Sakellarides and 600 B/s Uppers.

Sakellaridis.—All grades have been dealt in with the exception of cotton below fully fair, which has been entirely neglected. Premiums demanded for fully good fair and above are getting daily stiffer, as the constant demand for this cotton, especially fully good fair and fully good fair to good, has considerably reduced the stocks, and good style cotton in these grades is now very difficult to find. A good business has been done in fully fair to good fair, and the price of spot, as compared with contracts, is consequently somewhat dearer.

Uppers.—The demand has been small for this variety and confined almost exclusively to cotton above F.G.F., of which very little remains for sale. The price of spot as compared with contracts remains about unchanged.

Crop 1924.—The crop news continues to be very good; flowering and bolling are general in the Southern and South Central districts. There is no feature calling for special comment.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

A Very Quiet Week.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 2 :—

Egyptian Spot.—The past week has been one of the quietest experienced for some months, the official report describing the demand as "quiet," "in limited request," and "neglected" alternately. Naturally, with Bolton closed, a considerable curtailment in the off-take was only to be expected, but the other centres might also have been shut down, judging from the very limited amount of business sent through. The inquiry has been featureless, and calls for little comment; the small business transacted has been in the current qualities St. Good Fair to Fully Good Fair Sakel; a few bales of Upper have changed hands, but spinners show a disposition to cut this quality out as much as possible, and although stocks of same are light, very probably a considerable easing in basis will be witnessed during the next few weeks. During to-day's session the inquiry has shown signs of broadening, and there seems little doubt that many concerns have let their supplies run down. With stocks of desirable cotton, both here and in Alexandria, at a very low ebb, spinners appear to be faced with a difficult proposition between now and the new crop movement, and probably many will be forced, much against their inclinations, to use the qualities grading below G.F., which exist at this side and in Alexandria in fair quantities. The above, of course, refers solely to Sakel, Uppers are on quite a different basis, as mentioned previously. Sudan Sakel, Tokar Sakel, and White Sudans, in spite of being offered at what appear reasonable prices, have been comparatively neglected. Estimated sales of Egyptian total 1,100 bales, and those of Sudans 250 bales. Quotations for all grades and growths are reduced 25 points. Fair in the different growths exceptionally being reduced 55 points. F.G.F. Sakel 23.35d.

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Near East Markets.

DRIED FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows for the month ended July 1 :—

Currants.—The month just concluded witnessed no development of note, the fact that it included the Whit holiday being an adverse factor, for it is a period when many take the opportunity to enjoy a certain respite from business, especially in Lancashire. The demand throughout was restricted and confined within a narrow compass, but it is at least satisfactory to note that it has shown more signs of activity of late, and there is a generally hopeful feeling that this tendency will become more marked in the near future. Certainly the last few months have been characterised by such extreme quietude that a better state of affairs is decidedly overdue.

More liberal supplies, chiefly of the lower grades Pyrgos and Amalias, came to hand per Gerano and Veratyr, and were disposed of at some slight reduction in values from rates ruling last month—i.e., 43s. to 45s., and Smalls 46s. to 47s., otherwise quotations show little variation, the commoner grades of Vostizza alone excepted. Sales were :— Pyrgos, 42s. to 43s., cleaned, 43s. 6d.; Amalias, cleaned, 45s.; Patras, cleaned, 47s. to 50s.; Zante, 47s. to 49s.; Gulf and Panariti, 50s. to 55s.; Vostizza, 52s. to 58s., Fine up to 70s. Quotations : — Pyrgos, 42s.; Pyrgos, cleaned, 43s. 6d.; Amalias, 44s. to 45s.; Amalias, cleaned, 45s. to 47s.; Zante, 47s. to 49s.; Gulf and Panariti, 50s. to 54s.; Vostizza, 52s. to 70s.

Australian Currants.—There were further arrivals per Ceramic and Argyllshire, but unfortunately no improvement in the quality was noticeable, and the response from the trade has been most disappointing. Sales were made at 57s. to 60s. for the better grade, the lower qualities neglected.

Raisins.—Valencia : Some business for export and distilling was concluded at 34s. Cape : Reduced prices had to be accepted to make progress, and the little business possible was at 40s. for f.a.q., 52s. for g.a.q., and for a.q. in pockets 35s.

Sultanas.—This article has been persistently pushed for sale, importers showing anxiety to clear their holdings in preparation for the new season. Prices on the whole show very little alteration. The business has principally centred round the cleaned varieties at 50s. to 53s. Other sales : Ordinary 49s. to 51s., good quality 53s. to 64s., and fine 70s. Greeks : Difficult of sale, 48s. to 56s. Australian : Fresh consignments fail to attract buyers, and business is most difficult to negotiate, quality being very mixed as to size and colour, comparing very unfavourably with last year's crop. Business transpired at 52s. to 60s. Cape : Slow of sale. Sundried, 46s.; Sulphured, 55s. to 60s. Afghans : Offer no attraction to buyers and are neglected. Quotations : Reds, 32s. to 35s.; Yellows, 40s. to 45s.

Figs.—Stocks cleared.

There is a growing demand for tanning machinery in Greece as a result of the development of the tanning industry in that country.

Dacia Romano Petroleum.—Production for May amounted to 290 tons. Cable received : Moreni well No. 1 restarted flowing June 2.

Indo-Burma.—Production for April was 4,361 barrels. being 2,563.4 barrels from the Yenanma field and 1,797.6 barrels from the Padaukpin field.

NEAR EAST MARKET REPORTS.

The following extracts are taken from the current issue of the monthly circular of the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Constantinople.

The economic uneasiness previously mentioned increased during May, and the commercial crisis is all the graver in the absence of any immediate remedy. Although rumours have been circulated with regard to the eventual withdrawal of town-dues on commodities of first necessity, it does not seem likely that a reduction in fiscal charges is possible.

Deficient showings and poor agricultural results, due both to the reduction in the populations and to the methods of cultivation employed, the reduced purchasing power of the urban and rural population, the reserve shown by foreign companies and by local capitalists and traders, exclude any hope of an early improvement in the situation. Under these conditions transactions are very much reduced. Goods are left lying in Customs and are only withdrawn gradually and with great difficulty.

The import trade is weak; business in piece goods slowed down considerably after the Ramadan Festival, and the colonial produce trade is affected by the fall in the prices of sugar. Deals in carpets contributed the only animation in the export trade. The first consignments of mohairs have arrived from Anatolia, and stocks of the new campaign are being constituted.

The transit trade has declined further. The ports of Salonika and Piraeus have succeeded in attracting a great part of the transit trade formerly centralised in Constantinople, especially in the case of Persian carpets, British and Heraclée coals.

Mosul.

Locusts and grasshoppers caused fairly extensive damage to cereals. Lack of rain further increased apprehension with regard to next crops. Prices of cereals have risen 100 per cent. in consequence.

Jerusalem.

Over 4,500 tourists and a large influx of pilgrims visited Jerusalem during April, spending from two to three days in the city and visiting Bethlehem and Jericho. This has reflected on the local market, causing appreciable activity in the retail trade. Hotels and motor-car owners realised big profits.

The imports into Jerusalem, as recorded by the local Customs station, were less than during the corresponding month of last year. For the first three months of the year goods to the value of £E82,000 were imported, whilst the exports amounted to £E16,000. The chief imports were : Sugar, £E14,000; flour, £E13,000; rice, £E11,000, and petroleum, £E10,000. Prices of imported commodities were firm with the exception of fuel, foodstuffs, and cereals, which advanced considerably.

The "Carmel Oriental" have been granted permission by the Czecho-Slovak Government for the export of Palestine wine to Czecho-Slovakia on 50 per cent. ad valorem Customs duty, as is the case with the French and Italian wines, instead of the 100 per cent. ad valorem duty levied previously on the Palestinian wine. The society is negotiating with the Polish Government with a view to obtaining a similar privilege in Poland.

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Company Meeting.

ORIENTAL TELEPHONE AND ELECTRIC.

The thirtieth ordinary general meeting of the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company, Limited, was held on July 1, at the Abercorn Rooms, Great Eastern Hotel, Bishopsgate, E.C. Sir George S. Gibb (chairman of the company presided.

The Secretary (Mr. J. Macleod) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditor's report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—The death of your late distinguished chairman, Sir Henry Babington Smith, was a severe loss to the company. During his seven years' tenure of the chairmanship he gave most devoted attention to all the affairs and interests of the comany at all times even in the midst of his numerous and arduous public duties in connection with the war. I feel sure that you will unanimously join the directors in the deep regret which they express in the report now before you. In November last your directors honoured me by an invitation to undertake the chairmanship. Since my election I have been able to make a fairly comprehensive study of the position and prospects of your company. I have made myself acquainted, by a personal visit to India, with the undertakings at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, and with the directors and chief officers of the local companies affiliated to the Oriental.

I may say at the outset that as the result of my studies I can congratulate the proprietors on the sound financial position of their undertaking and on the favourable prospects to which we can look forward after the works of new construction have been completed, and the charges for telephone services have been placed, as they soon will be, on a satisfactory footing.

A few years ago the situation of your company contained some elements of uncertainty. The most important of the problems which confronted the company were, first, uncertainty of licence tenure; secondly, the need for raising large sums for extension of buildings and plant; and, thirdly, the necessity to revise charges in view of the general rise in wages and materials.

As regards the licences, it seemed likely that the Government would exercise their right of terminating your Indian licences in 1923, and matters went so far in that direction that when Mr. Parker Ness made his first visit to India in December, 1919, an arrangement was discussed and was thought to have been settled for regulating the conduct of the business at Bombay and Calcutta up to the date of assumed termination. Before that arrangement was finally settled, however, the whole question was referred to London, and fortunately, as I think it was, both for the companies and for the public, the India Office adopted a better policy. They got into communication with your late chairman and offered that in return for guarantees that the systems would be modernised they would agree not to terminate the Bombay licence before the year 1943. This became the basis of settlement ultimately applied to Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, and Rangoon.

As regards Singapore, a new agreement has now been signed under which the Government surrender their right to terminate the licence before, in this case, the year 1944. In India, Rangoon, and Singapore, therefore, the company are now secure in their licence rights up to 1943 and 1944, and the chief peril to which the company was exposed a few years ago has been entirely removed.

Now take the question of capital expenditure. At the beginning of the period under review there was urgent need for new exchange buildings, new and improved equipment, and considerable works of reconstruction. The business had outgrown the accommodation. How large and rapid that growth had been is well shown by the progressive increase of gross revenue. Starting from the year 1900 and combining the revenues of the Oriental and the subsidiary companies, but excluding the figures of the Egyptian undertaking, which, as you know, was sold to the Egyptian Government on very favourable terms in 1917, the gross revenue doubled in eight years. The new figure was doubled again in the next six years, and again it doubled itself in the succeeding six years at an average rate of about £26.000 per annum. In the remaining three years of the period up to 1923 there was a further increase of 50 per cent., due partly, in the last two years, to increased rates of charge. In other words, the gross revenues have multiplied 13½ times in 23 years.

The cost of the necessary improvements and extensions has been large. During the six years up to 1923 the capital expenditure was in Bombay £571,152, in Calcutta £433,437, and in Singapore £112,000. We have still to deal with Madras and Rangoon, where the estimated expenditure is about £150,000.

I think that is all I need say on the subject of the capital expenditure. You will realise that expenditure on extensions cannot be expected to yield an immediate return. It needs time to fructify. It is provision for future growth.

The report was unanimously adopted.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

P. and O. Banking Corporation.

The report of the P. and O. Banking Corporation, Ltd., for the year ended March 31 last states that the net profits for the year, after providing for taxation, bad and doubtful debts, and valuing investments at or below market rates, amount to £136,382 6s. 5d., which, with £15,179 11s. 10d. brought forward from last year, gives an available balance for disposal of £151,561 18s. 3d. The directors have placed to reserve the sum of £20,000, thus bringing the reserve up to £135,000. Out of the balance of £131,561 18s. 3d. they propose to pay a dividend of 5½ per cent., less income-tax at 4s. 0½d., absorbing £113,994 8s. 4d.

Imperial Bank of Persia.

The report for the half-year ended March 20 last states that the profits for the period mentioned, after making provision for expenses of management and general charges in London, and at chief office and branches, income-tax, corporation tax, and bad and doubtful debts, amount to £53,093 17s. 5d., to which has to be added £34,644 3s. 7d. brought forward from last account, making a total of £87,738 1s. 0d. From this sum, £3,185 12s. 8d., the amount due to the Persian Government in terms of the concession, has to be deducted, leaving £84,552 8s. 4d., which the directors have dealt with in the following manner: Transfer to reserve account, £20,000; transfer to bank premises account, £5,000; dividend, at the rate of 5s. per share, payable on July 17 (free of income-tax), £25,000; carry forward to new account, £34,552 8s. 4d.

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CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - - £370,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

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Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

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Paid-up Capital - - - -	£485,580
Reserve - - - - - - - -	£170,000

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CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
S. A. H. SITWELL, Esq.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq., Offg.

London Manager:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.

Authorised Capital - -	Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - -	Rs. 5.62.50.000
Reserve - - - - -	Rs. 4.45.00.000

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London Branch: 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£4,000,000	Paid-up Capital	£2,000,000
Subscribed Capital	£4,000,000	Reserve Fund	£2,750,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

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Aden, Aden, Steamer Point, Amritsar, Bombay | Calcutta, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Cochin (S. India) | Colombo, Delhi, Kandy, Karachi | Lahore, Madras, Mandalay, Newera Eliya | Rangoon, Tuticorin, Zanzibar | Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru — Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa) | Entebbe, Jinia, Kampala — Uganda

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The Bank purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.

The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

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RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 18,103,997

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Head Office: ATHENS.

ESTABLISHED 1893

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THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
SIR ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
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BATAVIA	HONGKONG	PEKING	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
BOMBAY	ILOILO	PENANG	TAVOY
CALCUTTA	IPOH	PUKET	(Lower Burma)
CANTON	KARACHI	RANGOON	TIENTSIN
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Reserve Liabiity of Shareholders - - - - - £1,000,000 Reserve Fund - - £340,000

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G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
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EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nazareth. MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta, Gibraltar.

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Reserve - - - - - - - £720,000

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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

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RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - - £2,325,000

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NALDERA	16,000	July 25	Aug 1	Bombay & Karachi
NELLORE	7,000	July 25	—	Colombo & Calcutta
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§†TURKISTAN	5,203	July 19	Aug. 2	Col'bo, M'dras & Cal't.
MULBERA	9,100	July 26	Aug. 8	Bombay and Karachi
MASHOBRA	8,288	July 26	Aug. 7	East African Ports
¶TAKLIVA	—	Aug. 2	Aug. 16	Madras and Calcutta
§†DURENDA	7,241	Aug. 9	Aug. 30	Bombay and Karachi
A Steamer	—	—	August	Queensland Ports
†MANTOLA	8,963	Aug. 16	Aug. 30	Madras & Calcutta
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*City of York	7,844	Aug. 23	Colombo and Calcutta
*City of Canterbury	8,421	Sept 3	Bombay and Karachi
†City of London	8,956	Sept. 16	Bombay and Karachi

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

THE NEAR EAST

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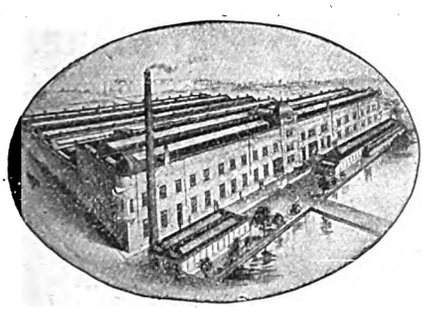

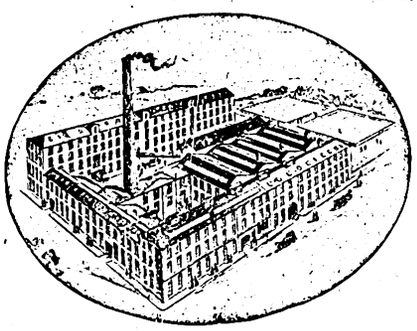

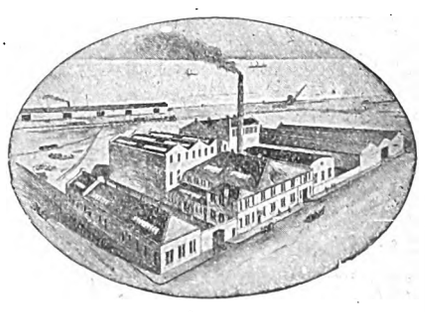

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Makers of the famous Lali-Imli Pure Wool Products. Manufactures include: Rugs, Blankets, Lohis (shawls), all classes of Knit goods, Flannels, Tweeds, Serges, Worsteds, Broadcloths and Great-coat Cloths. All requirements in Wool at lowest prices consistent with quality.

Cawnpore Woollen Mills Co., CAWNPORE.

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These Mills produce the well-known Kakomi Cotton Goods.

The following articles are among their manufactures: Cotton Yarns, Twills, Table and Bed Linen of all kinds, Tents, Durries, etc.

Cawnpore Cotton Mills Co., CAWNPORE.

COOPER, ALLEN AND COMPANY.

This Company is one of the world's largest manufacturers of Army Boots, supplying the armies not only of India, but the world. Makers of all types of Boots, and every kind of Saddlery and Leather Equipment.

Everything in Leather.

COOPER, ALLEN & CO., CAWNPORE.

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L. & R. HEYMANS, Ltd., Importers,
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LET THE "NEAR EAST" carry *your* message to the markets of the Near and Middle East. You will find it a paying proposition.

ASHWELL & NESBIT, LTD.
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Makers of the RUNWELL SEMI-ROTARY PUMP.

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AND ALL
Electrical Insulating Materials,
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Contractors to British, American, French, Italian Admiralty and War Office.
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The Levant Mineral Co., Ltd.
Largest Importers in United Kingdom.
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Address: 29-30, Broad Street Avenue, London, E.C.2.

THE NEAR EAST
reaches a great potential market stretching from Morocco to India.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 688—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, JULY 17, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Britain and Egypt.

Public opinion in Great Britain (it would be idle to attempt to disguise the fact) has been thoroughly aroused by the insistence upon Egypt's right to the sole possession of the Sudan, with the result that Anglo-Egyptian relations, which ought to be without the suspicion of a cloud, are in danger of becoming strained. Only complete understanding between the two countries can restore the necessary cordiality, and in the circumstances candour was called for on both sides. The debate in the House of Commons last Thursday was the outcome of the anxiety on the subject felt by the country as a whole, and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald took the opportunity of making a clear and straightforward statement. He deprecated the suggestion that differences of opinion between Egypt and Great Britain should at this stage be referred to the League of Nations. "It is much more in the nature of a domestic problem," he said. "We have been in partnership up to now." In regard to Egypt's water supply he gave a guarantee that the British Government was prepared to come to an agreement with Egypt which Egypt itself will accept as satisfactory, and that under that agreement all the needs of Egypt will be adequately satisfied. Mr. MacDonald referred to his anxiety to have the negotiations as quickly as possible. The problem could not be allowed to drift. There must be plenty of time, but not too much of it. While the negotiations are pending, neither Egypt nor Great Britain ought to destroy the *status quo* in the Sudan, and he added: "That must be honourably understood. No one responsible for the British Government could possibly allow, say, Egypt to hang on the negotiations for twelve months or two years, and, whilst the negotiations were being postponed, acting inside the Sudan, disturbing our administration, and upsetting civil order and the peace of the country."

The Pledge to the Sudan.

Turning to the lines of the proposed settlement, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald said very deliberately: "It must be clearly understood that Great Britain cannot throw off its responsibilities, contracted to the Sudan and the Sudanese, by withdrawing and handing the government of that country over to any other Government. I say that in no aggressive spirit at all, and I say it in no spirit of acquisition. . . . I say what I have said because we must stand by the people of the Sudan." He concluded by expressing the hope that Zaghloul Pasha will come to London "determined to settle—reasonable, objectively minded. In that event—the things that used to be said immediately after Egypt became independent will be fulfilled, and Egypt and ourselves will remain friends for each other's good and for the good of all the peoples in the countries round about." At the time when these words were spoken it was difficult to believe that they would not make a strong appeal to Zaghloul Pasha. Now after the outrage of which he has been the victim it remains to be seen whether his health will permit him to undertake the strain of negotiation.

The Attempt on Zaghloul Pasha.

Nowhere will more genuine satisfaction over the fortunate escape of Zaghloul Pasha from a dastardly attempt on his life be felt than in Great Britain. Considerable disappointment may have been experienced in this country by reason of the Egyptian Prime Minister's attitude towards the pending negotiations with the British Government—an attitude which apparently has not sufficiently differentiated him from the more irresponsible of his followers—but it is recognised that Zaghloul Pasha is for the time being the one obvious leader of the Egyptians, and the natural desire for Egypt's welfare suggests that the land is more likely to benefit from his retention of office than if Egypt becomes the prey of political rivalries among a number of minor leaders. Public opinion in Britain would far rather have to deal with an Egyptian Prime Minister, however intransigent, who can maintain some measure of unity and ordered government in Egypt than with a more amenable Prime Minister who had little prospect of carrying his country with him. There is always room for the hope that Zaghloul Pasha will one day begin to set less store on shouted applause, and will realise that the duty of a leader is to lead, even along an unpopular path, if it can be shown to be the only one compatible with the interests and dignity of the State.

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Assassination as a Policy.

Egypt is in danger of acquiring an ugly record for a tendency to adopt assassination as a political policy. Now that the most popular man in the country has nearly fallen a victim, it is to be hoped that steps will be taken to deal with the evil at its source. Assassination argues political immaturity, and is likely to be indulged in in a country where policies may be influenced, if not actually determined, by student demonstrations. When the whole future of a country seems to hang on the degree of national unity displayed, there must always be the temptation to welcome any form of endorsement of a public policy; hence the encouragement given in the past to mob politics in Egypt. With the grant of independence, the necessity passes for these demonstrations, which at best fail entirely to impress people of greater political experience. It remains, therefore, for the sober body of public opinion in Egypt to devise some means of discouraging the tendency to subordinate the Legislature to the universities and schools. Advisedly the wisdom of all the nations has decided to withhold political rights from minors; but it would be safer to give votes to children than to allow them to dictate by public meeting what is or is not to be the Government's policy.

Austria and Undesirables.

It is announced from Vienna that the Austrian Government has informed M. Raditch, the Croatian leader, that his return to Austria is not desirable, and will not be sanctioned. M. Raditch recently went to Moscow to study Soviet matters and methods, and has since been credited with the intention of organising with Soviet assistance a movement for the establishment of peasant republics in the Balkans, and of starting a propaganda paper in Vienna to further their cause. The action of the Austrian Government in warning off the leader of the Croat Peasant Party throws into strong relief their tolerance of the presence in Austria of a number of disgruntled Egyptians, who not only carry out a violently anti-British propaganda, including the publication in German of a paper called *Die Aegyptische Fahne* ("The Egyptian Flag"), but are also inveighing against Zaghloul Pasha in language that shows a striking similarity to that attributed to the medical student who has tried to assassinate the Egyptian Prime Minister.

The Little Entente.

The Conference of the Little Entente in Prague has come and gone, and once more the representatives of the three countries are able to report the complete harmony which characterised the deliberations. No official statement gives any indication of the ground actually covered, and in view of the thoroughness with which the question of Bessarabia had previously been threshed out in the Press of the countries concerned, there is no reason to suppose that the Conference risked its harmony by attempting any stereotyped expression of the attitude that Czecho-Slovakia and Yugoslavia might feel obliged to adopt in the event of hostilities between Roumania and Russia. One noticeable point is that the Little Entente has found itself obliged to adopt a less unforgiving demeanour towards Hungary. In spite of the fact that the three States would be the first to suffer from any attempt on Hungary's part to kick over the traces, the wisdom of the Great Entente in recognising that Hungary's capacity for ill is much circumscribed, and that it is worth while helping her to carry out any good intentions that she may have has prevailed, and is being tentatively accepted by the Little Entente.

The Religious Riots in Delhi.

The news of a serious outbreak of disorder in the heart of the capital of India is deplorable, but, unfortunately, not surprising; indeed, the increasing tension between Hindus and Moslems, not only in Delhi, but throughout the great cities of the North, has for some time been a commonplace of the local Press. The immediate occasion of the disorder seems, as usual, to have been a trivial quarrel between individuals, but its precise nature is unimportant, for the thing that matters is the eagerness of the men of either community to believe the worst of the other, and to bring sticks or knives into play on the flimsiest excuse. If there were to be riots at all, one could wish that they had synchronised with a session of the Legislature, so that the eager politicians of the South might have seen with their own eyes one of the ugly sides of the country they aspire to rule. As things stand, the lesson will probably be wasted, and eloquent lawyers from a distance will continue to throw lighted matches into the straw, leaving it to others to put out the fire. Will they never learn that appeasement is an essential preliminary to any real constitutional progress?

Indian States and the Government.

Rather a striking sign of the changing times in India is the vigour with which some of the States are now reviving old claims, and pressing new ones, against the central Government, partly, at least, because they hope for greater consideration from British administrators than from the Indian politicians who may by and by succeed them. Critics in India have attributed to this motive the sudden assertion of the Nizam's claim to Berar, a claim, by the way, which does not seem to have enlisted enthusiasitic local support, and we see that Mr. Banerji, the distinguished Dewan of Mysore, has openly relied on the same consideration in claiming to share in the new protective duties. Whatever the treaties may say, there is something to be said in equity for this particular claim. In the old days of a low revenue tariff, subjects of the States did not suffer in practice from the fact that imported goods had been taxed for the benefit of British India, but now that prices to consumers are being deliberately raised, the States can fairly ask for a share in the proceeds. Unfortunately, the central Government is not in a position to be generous, and no immediate settlement of the question can be expected.

Sir Gilbert Walker.

An important chapter in the application of science to human needs was closed last month when Sir Gilbert Walker vacated the post of Director-General of Observatories in India. For more than twenty years he has been eagerly chasing the monsoon, and if he has not actually located its origin he has added immensely to the stock of knowledge on the basis of which its vagaries can

TO READERS OF "THE NEAR EAST."

If you find any merit in "The Near East," if you hold with us that British interests in the Near and Middle East call for a Paper devoted exclusively to the affairs of that part of the world; if you consider it a worthy cause that Britain and the British should be sanely interpreted to the people of the East, and those people in their turn be made better known to Britons, support "The Near East" by becoming a subscriber yourself if you are not already, and by securing for us new subscribers. Specimen copies will be forwarded gratis. A subscription form will be found on page 78 of this issue.

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be forecast. We remember elderly people sneering when Sir Gilbert began to seek information from the West Coast of America, a region which at first sight has no possible connection with Indian rainfall, but to-day the value of the American observations is universally recognised, and the same is true regarding the mass of other data which he has collected and, what is equally important, interpreted. There are gaps in the record still, and we suspect that forecasts will continue imperfect until regular data are obtained from the Antarctic regions, but an observatory in those parts is perhaps not a practical proposition, and, if one were established, somebody would probably wreck it with an axe in the next fit of economy. What Sir Gilbert has done has been to utilise such observations as exist, and to supplement them at an expense which is ridiculously small in view of the importance of the work.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Government Stock.

However the Government's domestic proposals may get torn in Parliament, something always seems to occur abroad which puts matters right for the Labour Party again. Very soon after the Premier had a very nasty attack from both flanks over his relations with the French Premier, and the Chancellor had been heartily attacked over the pensions of widows of Service men, Mr. MacDonald was able to send Government stock bounding up again with the extremely welcome remarks upon the future of the Sudan. This attitude of the Labour Government towards the Sudan has, one might say, done them as much good as anything since they assumed office.

Some observers, including many eminent Conservatives, are inclined to think that the Labour Government is incorrigibly lucky; but one is now forced to assume, from the frequency with which salvation has been secured, that the Premier has his ear more closely to the ground than his opponents thought was possible for one whose head was reputed to be so much in the clouds.

Coal and Liberalism.

Pity the poor Liberals! It is almost melancholy to see the eager, perhaps despairing zest with which they turn from one subject to another, thinking therein to find their own salvation. The land, electoral reform, and now coal have been the objects of their frantic researches. Yet, while they thus seek feverishly for a panacea, the country steadily and unmistakably is voting against them.

They have, over the problem of this country's coal supplies, drawn up what they call a great national programme, but it is hard to perceive that it does more than recommend in the good old way that justice should be done to everybody. It is true that the Liberals fully understand that our mines are often not run on the most economical lines, and that, between the demands of the masters and of the men, the public stands always to lose, but one feels that all this might so easily and more creditably have been recognised when the Liberals were in power, or and especially when there was in supreme command Mr. Lloyd George, under whose presidency this "programme" on coal and power has been formulated.

But it would seem, whatever the Liberals do, the people of Britain will not approve. At the Lewes by-election the other day the same unlearnable lesson was taught to the Liberals. The Conservative easily got in, with the Labour man not very far behind, and the Liberal nowhere. And this was after a stupendous effort had been made in Liberal quarters, and after their Press had daily announced the sure tendency of the country towards a sane Liberalism. For many years more it looks as though the Liberals will have to live under a cloud with an increasingly leadening lining.

Parliament and the Weather.

Governments some æons ago gave up the attempt to control the weather, and Parliament has now proposed to move to the mountain. It set up some months back a Joint Committee to see whether Parliamentary sessions could not be arranged so as to curtail the interference of the hot weather in the national business. This Committee is of opinion that Parliament should sit until the end of July and adjourn until October or November.

The need for some such rearrangement is increasingly apparent as the weather becomes hotter and tempers become frailer. The Clydeside people, in particular, will, if these proposals are enforced, undoubtedly spare us some of their August and September ebullitions.

The Monstrosity of Advertising.

There are at present gathered together in London various "advertising experts"—that is, people who tell you more loudly and more persistently than anyone else that there is truth in what they say. They indulge in what they call "slogans." (Example, by E. V. K.: "Digest well, and you won't die jest yet.") The more stentorian and palpable of them come from America, and are now running the British Empire Exhibition off its legs. They do not recommend to us very ordinary folk that we should buy the articles that they advertise: they enjoin (not, as in Latin, followed by the conditional, but by the present indicative) us to buy the wretched things.

More than this. They claim that the whole world of beauty is theirs. They are proudly exhibiting the posters that they have paid artists for to prove to us how beauty and truth are instinct in their work. "There is truth in advertising," says our own incomparable Sir Charles Higham, and for the weak moment many are inclined to believe him. The dogmatism of these men is really delightful. Possibly it has a philosophical or psychological basis; it may be the modern form of Positivism.

Certainly there is nothing to which this use of advertisement may not, in the eyes of its devotees,

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE

Incorporated A.D. 1720.

FIRE, LIFE, SEA, ACCIDENT, MOTOR CAR, PLATE GLASS, ANNUITIES, BURGLARY, FIDELITY GUARANTEES, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY, THIRD PARTY, LIFT, BOILER, MACHINERY, TRUSTEE AND EXECUTOR.

LONDON: - - - - Head Office, Royal Exchange, E.C.3.
CALCUTTA:- - - - - - 1 & 2, Old Court House Corner.
CAIRO: - - - - - - - - - - 48, Place de l'Opera.
ALEXANDRIA:- -Societe Generale de Pressage et de Depots.
CYPRUS: - - - - - - - - - Najem Houry & Sons.
JERUSALEM, JOPPA, HAIFA, KHARTOUM. Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited.
ATHENS: - - C. Triandafyllides & Sons, 36, Stadium St.

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be applied. It is, in the opinion of our Sir Charles Highams, the method of the future for the propagation of ideas; it is the only way in which States will be able to justify their existence. Not only for mundane purposes will this great instrument of instructing the public be used; and there are those already in Great Britain who advocate its employment for religious purposes. If, they argue (although not quite in these words), you can get people to drink what is called whisky and to eat what is called marmalade, how much more easily will they be persuaded to swallow So-and-so's sermons!

I once heard Mr. Edgar Jepson tell Sir Charles Higham to his face that these advertising "stunts" and "slogans" are nothing but "toddy for imbeciles"; and it is impossible to improve upon that.

The Week at Lord's.

Previous report was even more unreliable than usual over the match between Oxford and Cambridge at Lord's last week, for there was at no time more than one team in it. As far as I could see, there was not a single department in which Cambridge were not infinitely superior. But, on the whole, the teams were far below the average, particularly in fielding. Some of the on side play was excellent, but one missed the off-side grace which is commonly so distinctive a feature of University play.

Harrow this year were not beaten by Eton, and that fact alone seems to deserve record. What is more, they had a quite good share of the honours. What is perhaps even more still, the two days were the completest social triumph.

English Oilfields.

It is disappointing to read that the directors of the English Oilfields, Ltd., have come to the conclusion that from their large oil shale lands in Norfolk there is no reasonable prospect of commercial success. Everyone will remember how, about four years ago, the country was set agog with the suggestion that it possessed oil in workable quantities. And now comes disillusion.

Yet there is much to be said for the absence of oil in a country. At any rate, our politics do not, as in some countries they do, reek of it.

The Health of London.

No idea is more firmly imbedded than that the wear and tear of modern life cause people to die earlier than they used. But it is, as the latest report of the Medical Officer of Health for London shows, a mistaken belief, for it is therein demonstrated that in the course of eighty years the Londoner's life has been extended by more than twenty years. Moreover, in 1923 the death-rate was the lowest ever recorded in London. And this was a remarkable year in other ways. For the birth-rate was lower than in 1922 (although that has been on the down grade since the 'eighties), and there were fewer marriages than in the preceding year.

What all this signifies must be left to the individual to say. The apostles of progress are rejoicing over it, the cynics are rejoicing over it, and the Malthusians are rejoicing over it. And he who belongs to none of these three categories is probably keeping quiet his counsel, and will concentrate on less problematical things until he has forgotten all about it.

Alter Ego.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE

FOUNDED **1710.**

THE OLDEST INSURANCE COMPANY IN THE WORLD.

Head Office: **63, THREADNEEDLE ST., LONDON, E.C.**

Branches and Agencies throughout the World.

Principal Agents in the Near East:

ALEXANDRIA	BEHREND & CO., LTD.
ATHENS	Dr. C. A. ANDRIKIDES
CAIRO	VICTOR HANAN
CYPRUS	C. S. CRAMBY
PORT SAID	L. SAVON & CO., LTD.
PORT SOUDAN	A. FRANK & CO.
SALONICA	WHITTALL & SALTIEL, LTD.
SOFIA	THE LEVANT CO. (BULGARIA), LTD.

THE ESSENCE OF INSURANCE IS SECURITY.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CASKED CORDIALITY.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—Your contributor "Alter Ego" wonders how Europeans overseas fared in regard to beer before Kenton took to bottling it for export. So far as the East is concerned, the answer is that they got their beer in the cask. The outward fleets, especially those from Holland for Java, carried very large quantities during the seventeenth century, and one can trace in old invoices the distribution from Batavia, to Gombroon and Surat, to Pulicat and Chinsurah, to Formosa, Amboina, Macassar, and as far as Timor. Arrivals were, however, irregular, while the beer was apt to turn, so that periods of enforced abstinence recurred from time to time. In the official diary of the Batavia Administration there is a pleasant little idyll—the Governor-General sends his compliments to the English President at Bantam, and inquires if he can spare even one barrel of "good English beer"; the English President sends his compliments to the Dutch Governor-General, and regrets that Bantam is bone dry; the messenger says there's really plenty of beer, but the President is stingy; and feeling between the two nations becomes, shall I say, embittered. Then a ship reaches Bantam from the Thames, the President sends his compliments to Batavia with a barrel of the best, the Governor-General reciprocates with a keg of Rhine wine, and international relations become cordial—until the next drought.—I am, etc.,

W. H. Moreland.

MOSLEM FESTIVAL AT WOKING.

The Moslem festival of Eed-ul-Azha was celebrated at the Woking Mosque on July 13. The gathering, numbering between 200 and 300, included the Fadli Sultan of Lehej, the Begum Sahiba of Manawadar, Prince Abdul Khaliq of Mangrol, the Persian and Egyptian Ministers and their personnel, the Consul-General of Afghanistan and the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires and their personnel, the Consul-General of Czecho-Slovakia, Lord Headley, Sir Ali and Lady Imam, and the Raja of Shripanor.

Following prayers on the lawn adjoining the Mosque, the Imam (Khwaja Nazir Ahmad) delivered an address upon the present condition of Islam.

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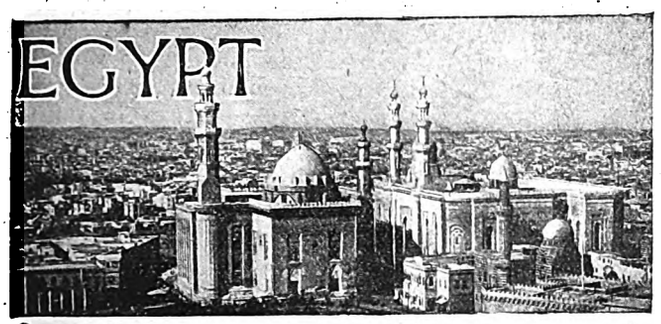
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, July 5.

The Position of the Premier.

During the past week Egypt has suffered a Ministerial crisis, Zaghloul Pasha having tendered his resignation to the King in consequence of the British Government's declaration on the subject of the Sudan. When he made his statement in regard to that declaration, prior to having his audience with the King, Parliament gave him a unanimous vote of confidence, and, as was fully anticipated, the King, acting strictly as a Constitutional Monarch, declined, in the circumstances, to accept the Cabinet's resignation. And so Zaghloul Pasha and his colleagues remain in office.

It seems clear now that, whatever Zaghloul's expressed excuse, the whole affair was a very astute expedient on his part to divert attention from the errors of tactics that he has certainly committed, and make of the difficulties which had resulted a rallying point for the country. His scheme has proved a brilliant success, and there is little doubt that in regard to the main political questions, he has regained whatever ground he had lost since his accession to power; and, in fact, he has materially improved his position.

As regards negotiations, Mr. MacDonald's speech has certainly revived the hopes which had been dashed by Lord Parmoor's statement, but the situation at the present moment is far too obscure for it to be possible for anyone to say anything definite on the subject. In his statement agreeing to remain in office it will have been noted Zaghloul Pasha made no reference to this matter, and what is confidently expected is that, without coming to any decision, he will proceed to Vichy for a cure, and that, if circumstances are favourable, he will proceed thence to London. It is, however, obvious that under the most favourable conditions negotiations cannot take place until mid-September.

I said that in regard to the main political question Zaghloul Pasha had regained his position. I said that advisedly, because an incident that happened in the Chamber of Deputies on Wednesday evening has shown that, however blindly the Deputies may follow him on the higher political questions, they are not inclined always to bow to his will. Saad Pasha, on the occasion in question, took them to task for having taken a decision to reject a Bill without giving the Government an opportunity to defend the project, and he asked them to go back on their decision. It appears that, having come to the end of the *ordre du jour* at an unusually early hour, the House took it into its head to deal with other matters which were awaiting attention, quite regardless of the fact that no notice had been given to the Government, and that, in fact, no representative was on the Government bench at the time.

Opposition in the Chamber.

The measure with which the Deputies decided to deal was the Bill regulating demonstrations and public meetings, which, promulgated before the framing of the Constitution, was amongst the laws that had to be submitted to Parliament for confirmation. And by a unanimous vote they decided to abolish this law. Undoubtedly, in doing this, they had borne in mind the fact that this was one of the exceptional measures, which Zaghloul Pasha had condemned so severely before he came to power, and it was probably with no little surprise that they learned from his lips that he had contemplated its retention, as some measure of this description was essential for the government of the country.

However, the Chamber stood on its dignity and categorically declined to go back on its decision, although it was abundantly evident that their action had displeased the leader whose wishes they had hitherto almost blindly respected. A compromise was eventually arrived at, and the Government will bring forward a new measure in the next few days, but this incident has revealed the Chamber in an entirely new light, and will have shown Zaghloul Pasha that he cannot entirely lead it by the nose as he likes.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, June 26.

Anglo-Iraq Treaty.

With the acceptance by the Constituent Assembly of the Anglo-Iraq Treaty, the country as a whole has experienced a sense of great relief. There has followed a cessation of those dangerous intrigues which were beginning to cause unrest throughout Iraq, an unrest which might at any moment have come to a head. Terrorism of the deputies has ceased, pro-Turkish, anti-Government, and anti-monarchist propaganda has to a large extent been discontinued, and no further demon-

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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strations have been made in the capital, though bodies of armed police still patrol the streets. The acceptance of the Treaty seems also to have nipped in the bud the reported intention of certain of the Euphrates sheikhs to set up a Government of their own, backed by their well-armed tribesmen.

A persistent rumour was current in the bazaars for some days that the qualified resolution by which the Assembly passed the Treaty was unacceptable to the British Government. The following announcement, which appeared in the local Press on June 19, set at rest all fears on that score.

"His Excellency the High Commissioner has been authorised by His Britannic Majesty's Government to state that the acceptance of the Treaty, Protocol, and Agreements by the Constituent Assembly under the terms of their resolution of the evening of June 10, 1924, is considered by His Britannic Majesty's Government to have fulfilled the condition required by Article 18 of the Treaty, which provides for ratification by the high contracting parties only after acceptance by the Constituent Assembly, as soon as the consent of the British Parliament has been obtained.

"His Britannic Majesty's Government are, therefore, prepared to proceed with the formal ratification, and it is hoped to obtain this consent as soon as possible after the reassembly of the British Parliament, which took place on Tuesday."

From this it will be seen that in point of actual fact the Treaty is still unratified, the Constituent Assembly having only authority to accept or reject it.

King Faisal has expressed his willingness to make the formal ratification as soon as His Britannic Majesty's Government are ready to do so. The ratifications are to be exchanged at Baghdad.

The Organic Law.

Many of the Deputies have obtained permission to return to their homes for a spell. The "Rump" continues languidly to debate on the clauses of the Organic Law. It has so far made only one innovation of any moment—namely, the addition to the flag of Iraq of two stars, representing, it is said, the dual control at present existing in the country.

The draft of the Organic Law considerably curtails the powers of the King, transferring them from His Majesty to the Parliament and Senate of the future. Many of the Deputies are anxious to see this change made, while others fear that such a step will be injurious to the country. The arguments of these latter have at least the merit of frankness. They state that they realise that the future Parliament will be composed of a large number of men, some unable to read or write, many devoid of any public spirit, most possessed of little previous political experience. If the fate of Iraq lies in their hands, they will be only too liable to come to ill-advised decisions which, by reason of the size of the Assembly and the conflicting interests of its members, the High Commissioner may be unable to influence. If greater power were in the hands of one man, namely, the King, they argue, so much the greater would be the influence wielded by the British Government.

Release of Suspected Assassins.

The two lawyers who were charged with the attempted murder of Sheikh Sulman al Barak and Sheikh Addai, two pro-British Deputies, have been released for want of evidence. Though he had previously identified his assailants, when it came to the point Sheikh Sulman refused to give evidence against them. This apparently inexplicable conduct is said in some quarters to be due to the feeling among the tribes that it is not in accordance with honour to resort to Government assistance for the avenging of a personal wrong. That, in their opinion, is a matter which should be settled according to tribal custom. The two sheikhs have recovered from their serious wounds.

The local Press, now that the Treaty has been accepted, is urging the release of those who were arrested in connection with the demonstration outside the National Assembly on May 29.

Italian Cruiser at Basra.

Basra has been entertaining during this week Commander Cacchia and the officers of the Italian cruiser R.N. Calabria. This ship, after two years in the China station, is returning to Italy, where she will be broken up, having been some twenty-five years in commission. She put in at Basra in order to coal after her visit to Bushire, where she picked up the bodies of the Italian aviators who were killed in the recent accident at Shiraz. The coffins were carried through lines of Persian troops, both British and Italian naval guards of honour being present, and were put on board the cruiser, which is to take them to Italy for burial.

PERSIA.

Teheran, June 20.

The Political Situation.

Though the political situation has been quiet and without incident for some time past, it would appear that things are not running as smoothly as they might with the Government, and even the Prime Minister is being criticised for the Cabinet's apparent inactivity. A few days ago Sardar Sepah proceeded to the Parliament and requested the President of the Mejliss to appoint a committee of twenty-four deputies to discuss the present situation and to act in conjunction with the Government. The Mejliss at present appears to be marking time, and no decisions on important matters before the House for discussion have been taken.

The papers published a short time ago the text of a telegram which purported to have been despatched to the Shah by forty of the Ulema urging on His Majesty the necessity for him to return to Persia as soon as possible, and other priests have followed suit. It would seem, therefore, as if the ground were being prepared for the sovereign's return, but no reliable information is available yet in this connection.

Presentation to Sardar Sepah.

A fortnight ago a large crowd was present at Bagh-i-Shah to witness the public presentation to the Prime Minister of a decoration in the shape of a miniature portrait of Ali, Amir el Momenin, the Prophet's son-in-law, sent from the sacred shrine

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at Kerbela at the instigation of the Ulema of that place, in recognition of Sardar Sepah's services to the Islamic faith. The Afghan Minister and Turkish Ambassador were present, and the latter delivered a speech on the unity of the Moslem nations.

Attacks on the American Advisers.

While the Government is quite satisfied with the good work being done by the American Financial Advisers, as evidenced by the submission to the Mejliss of a Bill for the employment of four more advisers at a salary of $7,500 per annum, some of the papers have renewed their attacks on Dr. Millspaugh and his staff, alleging that their financial qualifications are inadequate for the difficult task confronting them, of suggesting and instituting reforms to place the chaotic finances of the country on a sound and profitable basis, instead of merely collecting taxes and revenue. The Ministry of Finance recently submitted to Parliament an Income-tax Bill which, if passed, will come into force from the beginning of the next Persian financial year, March 21, 1925. Income-tax is a quite new and hitherto unknown form of taxation in this country, and the Bill is being much criticised and apparently meeting with much opposition in the Mejliss. This Bill provides for the levy of income-tax on a sliding scale ranging from 1 per cent. on incomes of between 1,000 and 2,000 tomans a year to 8 per cent. on incomes of 25,000 tomans (about £6,000 at the present rate of exchange) and upwards, and foreign subjects and institutions will be liable to payment of such a tax if their incomes are earned in Persia. Much doubt is expressed as to the practicability and feasibility of such a measure in this country, and it remains to be seen whether the Mejliss will ratify it.

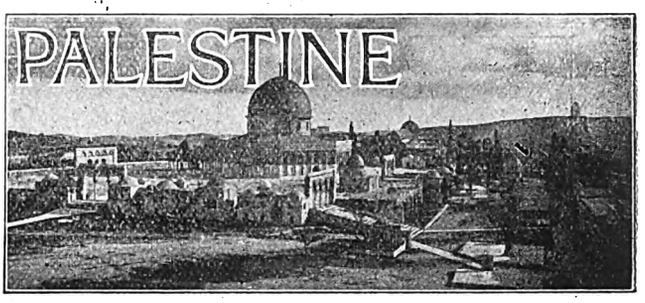
The Military Operations in Luristan.

Though the Government troops' campaign against the Lurs has been veiled by strict censorship, and only reports of heavy fighting came through, it is now officially announced that the tribesmen have met with a severe defeat, and that the Government forces have reoccupied the towns temporarily occupied by the Lurs, and that the district is quiet again. It is interesting to note that aeroplanes have been made use of for the first time for reconnaissance work in this country during these operations, the Government losing no time in utilising its newly acquired Air Force.

The King's Birthday.

On 3rd instant, on the occasion of His Majesty's birthday, the usual reception was held in the delightful garden of the British Legation, the Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Ovey, being at home to a large gathering of Persian officials and notables, the *Corps Diplomatique*, and members of the British and European communities. This year the reception took place in the afternoon instead of in the evening as in the past few years, and a novel feature was an exhibition of physical "stunts" on one of the lawns by the six Indian cyclists who are riding round the world, of whom I made mention recently. The exhibition, of which the Prime Minister was an interested spectator, included a display of Indian wrestling and jiu-jitsu, and a three-round boxing match, at the end of which Sardar Sepah asked to examine the gloves. One of the Indians then proceeded to pull a motor-car with six passengers by a rope held in his teeth, and later allowed the car to be driven twice across his back, rather an alarming sight for the spectators to witness!

The new French Minister, M. Bonzon, arrived here a few days ago, and presented his credentials to the Valiahd (Crown Prince).



Jerusalem, July 5.

The Murder of Dr. De Haan.

The English Press seems to have given considerable publicity to the murder in Palestine of a certain Dr. Jacob De Haan—probably because his death, on the face of it, seemed so obviously a political crime and because Zionist enthusiasts seemed so obviously the only likely culprits. These conclusions may or may not be true; the local police are at present quite at a loss where to turn for either motive or culprit, and nobody, except Dr. De Haan's own small party of "super-orthodox die-hards," is prepared altogether to exclude the possibility of the murder being a case of purely private revenge.

Dr. De Haan was an exceptionally gifted man; but he was not a normal being, working along reasonable lines with a reasonable political or religious goal in mind; he seemed to have a lust for unpopularity and notoriety—and he certainly acquired an ample supply of both. Yet by the Administration, by the local Zionist Organisation, and by the Jews generally he was looked upon as just an irritating nuisance whose efforts might be disregarded, or at least not taken seriously, rather than as a dangerous political leader who—by regular or irregular means—should at all costs be suppressed. Few private men could have inspired so much dislike as did Dr. De Haan; yet in spite of this his activities—whether as correspondent of the *Daily Express* or as the brain and spur of a group of orthodox "separatists," or as an anti-Zionist stalwart—were in the main so grotesquely and increasingly perverse and wrong-headed that he had ceased to be dangerous except in his possible influence on those ignorant of existing conditions. Such a man is not usually the target of political crime, however severely he may suffer at the hands of indignant fellow-journalists. The police did, I believe, arrest two well-known local journalists who had recently delivered themselves of vitriolic abuse of De Haan, but they were quickly liberated. In his earlier days in Palestine De Haan did not figure prominently in his later unpopular rôles; he wrote attractively about the country, did his best to make himself journalistically efficient, and cultivated the Arabs and the British officials. It was with the visit of Lord Northcliffe to Jerusalem two years or so ago that De Haan made his greatest bid for unpopularity—by heading a deputation which informed Lord Northcliffe that they, speaking in the name of Orthodox Jewry, protested against Zionism. Lord Northcliffe was strongly impressed; he may have learned ultimately that this deputation did not represent "orthodox Jewry" in the real sense, but something very different. Later, De Haan became gradually revealed as the Jerusalem correspondent of the *Daily Express*—in whose pages he gave an astonishing exhibition of distortions, gradually more deliberate and unpardonable, of any and every local event which could be used to impose on an innocent public the idea

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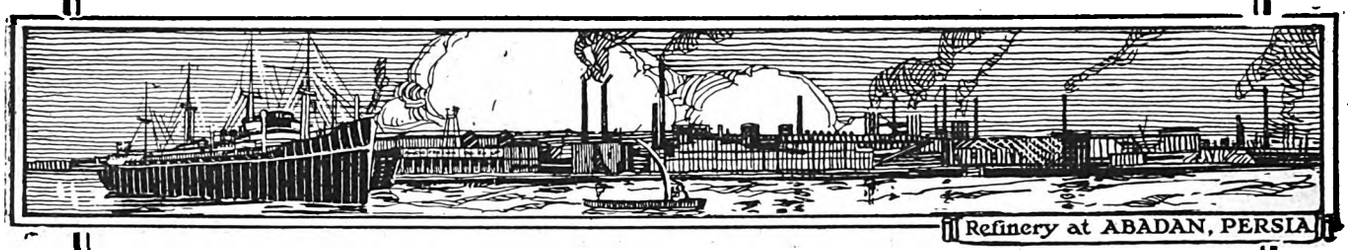

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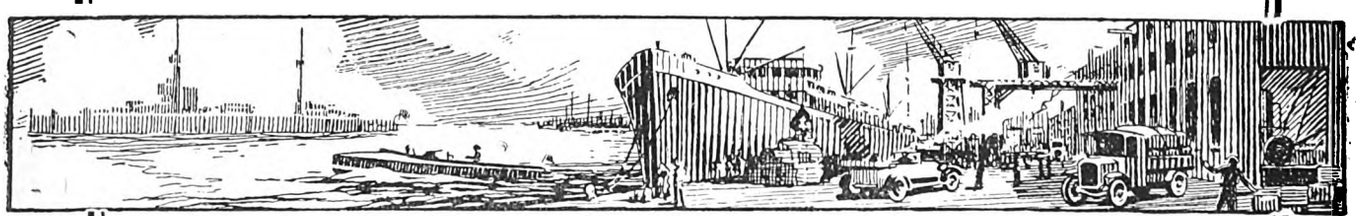

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of a Palestine reeking with dissatisfaction, anarchy, and oppression.

All this does not, of course, justify his murder, and nothing but the strongest expressions of utter abhorrence have been forthcoming from every Jewish quarter at an act which all denounce as "utterly un-Jewish."

"La Juive."

This murder has rather driven out of mind the grievance, stirred up a few days earlier, at the Government's suppression of the Hebrew Opera Company's performance of Halévy's "La Juive." The performance of this opera had long been announced, and it was actually presented in Tel-Aviv and then in Jerusalem. A second performance in Jerusalem was, at a very short notice, prohibited on the grounds that it was unseemly and offensive to the susceptibilities of the Latin community. It is difficult to convey a due impression of the indignation among the Jewish public—that a Jewish opera, an opera played continuously for nearly a century in every town in the civilised world, should for the first time be officially banned when presented in the "Jewish National Home," in a city predominantly Jewish, performed in the Hebrew language, and presented by the "Palestine Hebrew Opera," that greatest creation of the Jewish cultural revival—it is felt that deliberate and callous insult of Jewish feelings could no farther go! The Latins, on the other hand, accuse the Jews of gross and deliberate ill-manners in presenting an opera depicting a Roman Cardinal, once guilty of a wife and child (though this was before his ordination vows), at the very moment when a Cardinal, the Papal-Legate, was in Jerusalem. The actual offensiveness or inoffensiveness of the opera in itself does not seem to have been seriously taken into account. To the independent onlooker the Cardinal in "La Juive" is a distinctly fine and human figure, while the Jew Eliezer is a perfectly horrid character.

THE EGYPTIAN ARMY DINNER.

The Egyptian Army dinner took place at Claridge's on July 8, when the following were present:—Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, Admiral Sir W. H. Cowan, Generals Sir L. B. Friend, Sir T. J. Gallwey, Lord Gleichen, Sir G. F. Gorringe, Sir A. Hunter, Sir H. Lawson, Sir G. B. Macauley, Sir B. T. Mahon, Rawson, Sir L. F. Stack, and Sir F. R. Wingate, Captain C. M. Staveley, R.N., Colonels Lord Athlumney, Bassett, Broadbent, Byam, Chapman, Dove, Hadow, Hall, Hore-Ruthven, Hutchens, McCowan, Persse, Russell, Savile, Smith, Stallard, Spencer, Turner, Tweedie, Watson, Webber, Wilson, and Woodward, Majors Bailey, Bayly, Brocklehurst, Danels, Eaton, Elderton, Fairbairn, Flint, Giles, Greenwood, Hayes Sadler, Viscount Hawarden, Jarvis, Mills, Spencer, Stirling, Thorburn, Walsh, Waymouth, and Worthington Wilmer, Captains Burton, Campbell, Devereux, Garstin, Smedley, Soutar, and Wise, and Mr. Crispin, Mr. Herd, Dr. Hodson, Mr. Laidlaw, and Mr. Vingoe.

The Viceroy's programme for the rest of the year comprises a visit to Poona in August and to Kashmir in October, attendance at the opening of the session of the Chamber of Princes and the military manœuvres at Delhi, a visit to Kathiawar in November, and a month in Calcutta at Christmas-time.

An exhibition of the objects discovered during the last season's work of the joint expedition of the British Museum and the University of Pennsylvania in Mesopotamia, under the leadership of Mr. C. L. Woolley, was opened to the public in the Assyrian Basement at the British Museum last Tuesday.

MESTROVITCH.

Though loans may fail, and Raditch intrigue, and *komitajis* threaten, the estimation in which the work of Mestrovitch, the Dalmatian sculptor, is held by the world is surely and steadily increasing.

His exhibition at the Galleries of the Fine Art Society in New Bond Street enables one, perhaps more clearly than was possible during the days of the War, to appreciate his art. It contains many examples not hitherto exhibited. At once one can say that he is as stimulating, as forceful and masterful as ever one thought. But, in addition to the intensity and the intimacy which have long been granted to Mestrovitch, one sees in this exhibition a profundity, almost a serenity, that one had not hitherto wholly suspected. Not that he gets away from his provincialism, if one may without disrespect so call his burning love for his native types—he still sees the universal through the particular, as God through the flower; but he seems now to be so sure of his technique that, like a Busoni, he can roam at will in the remote fastnesses of his imagination, or superbly and boldly attack and overcome the problems of the immediate present.

Examples of his work are here to be seen in bronze, wood, marble, and plaster, and possibly the most admirable, certainly the most fascinating, are those in wood. It is a constant marvel and joy to see how the craftsman has used the very grain of his wood the better to inform his conceptions of Christs and Madonnas and Caryatids, and in marvelling at this technique one scarcely realises the unconventionality of his imaginative works—for his Christ (as in "Ecce Homo") is a Slav Christ, the Christ, perhaps, of Dostoevsky, or, again, of his fellow-countryman, Vladimirovitch. But one can ponder at will before these exhibits and find fresh things to admire. One thinks for a moment that nothing among his bronzes can surpass the vital expression—which creates the feeling of a real presence—of M. and Mme. Eumorfopoulos and of Lady Cunard; and then one turns with possibly greater admiration to the studies of "Pieta," to the "Girl at Prayer," to the "Girl Playing Guitar." Of his works in marble, the most remarkable is a study of a woman; it is called "Contemplation"—a beautiful example both of Mestrovitch's strength and of the closeness of his inspiration to Nature. One may mention of the plaster exhibits, "Emir Feisal," "Rodin," and "Man Thinking," of which the last is truly memorable for the fierce degree of thought to which it suggests the man has attained. To the representation of the King of Iraq Mestrovitch has unerringly brought the dignity and repose characteristic of the Emir, and there is not wanting that touch of placid kindliness; but he scarcely suggests any hidden depths or distant Arab dreams.

Public interest in sculpture is slowly re-awakening, and it is much to the credit of Yugoslavia to have played so fine a part in that renaissance. This exhibition has already attracted wide notice, and will attract still wider appreciation.

The Yugoslav Government has appointed M. Michel Gavrilovitch, the Yugoslav Minister in London, and M. Juritch, Yugoslav delegate on the Reparation Commission, to represent Yugoslavia at the forthcoming London Conference.

The Greek Minister of Education has introduced a measure for the purpose of founding at Salonika a second Greek University, states the *Morning Post* Athens correspondent. It is to have a Faculty of Literature, including English, and will specially cultivate economics and applied science in view of the country's practical needs.

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THE VISIT OF RAS TAFFARI.

The visit to London of Ras Taffari Makonnen, Prince Regent of Abyssinia, has been conspicuous for the crowded character of the programme. Apart from the official engagements—the audience at Buckingham Palace of Tuesday, followed by King George's return visit to 2, Albert Gate, where Ras Taffari and his suite are staying, the luncheon with the King and Queen on Wednesday, the visit to the British Empire Exhibition and the Prime Minister's dinner on Thursday, and the luncheon at Lambeth Palace on Friday—His Imperial Highness has found time to visit St. Thomas's Hospital, the Zoological Gardens, Westminster Abbey, Windsor Castle, the Royal United Services Institution, the National Gallery, and the House of Commons, as well as to make a number of more private visits, including that to the British and Foreign Bible Society, to which he made a handsome donation of £100. On Monday Ras Taffari went over to Paris, to return in time to receive an honorary degree at Cambridge University on Thursday. He is to have a farewell audience of King George on Friday. The Prince expresses himself as highly pleased with his visit to England; while Sweden, of all the countries he has visited, has perhaps made the greatest appeal to him for scenery, he has appreciated the general comfort of English life, and was particularly impressed with the interior of Buckingham Palace.

THE BULGARIAN MINISTER IN LONDON.

News has been received from Sofia that the resignation of M. Dimitri Stancioff, Bulgarian Minister in London, has been accepted by the Bulgarian Government, and that he will vacate his post by the end of the present month.

A few months ago questions in the Bulgarian Chamber showed that extreme partisans among the supporters of the present Government resented the break with the Balkan tradition that requires a complete change of all State officials with every change of Government. M. Stancioff had been appointed to his present post by M. Stamboliski, and a certain number of deputies considered it incongruous that M. Zankoff's Ministry should continue to be represented by a nominee of the late Agrarian régime. In order to save the Government from any possible embarrassment, M. Stancioff placed his resignation in its hands, and, after considerable delay, this has now been accepted.

When M. Stancioff came to London four years ago he had nothing but his own personality and that of the members of his family to oppose to the reserve which the representative of an ex-enemy State was not unnaturally liable to meet. In this short time he has had the satisfaction not only of being himself made welcome in London, but also of seeing cordial relations established between his country and Great Britain. A combination of circumstances, with which must be associated the names of Mme. Stancioff and her three daughters, has made the Minister pre-eminently successful where many of his countrymen might have failed to advance beyond the stage of correct relations between the two countries.

Bulgaria, therefore, is indebted to M. Stancioff for his services in London, and opinion in England will be doubtful of the wisdom that has somewhat abruptly terminated his tenure of the post of Minister. M. Stancioff, however, adopted diplomacy as a life profession, and has never taken any part in Bulgaria's domestic politics. Educated at the famous Theresianum in Vienna, he entered the Bulgarian diplomatic service, and, after being for a short time Foreign Minister, was in 1898 appointed Minister to Paris and London. The double post was soon divided between two Legations, and M. Stancioff remained in Paris. After service in Rome, St. Petersburg, and other capitals, he was back again in Paris at the outbreak of the War. Already suspect as "Ententophil," he was removed to Rome, and when Bulgaria entered the War was sent on active service to Macedonia as a captain in the Reserve of Officers. After the Armistice M. Stancioff was appointed by the Prime Minister, M. Thodoroff, as Adviser to the Foreign Office, where he was found by M. Stamboliski. When the time came for the appointment of a Bulgarian Minister to London, M. Stamboliski nominated M. Stancioff, having satisfied himself that no other appointment would be as favourably received.

After a visit to their property in Varna (Bulgaria), it is not unlikely that M. and Mme. Stancioff will settle in London.

It is reported that the new Bulgarian Minister to London will be M. Hadji Micheff, who held the post at the time when Bulgaria entered the War against the Allies.

ARAB SONGS.

An extremely interesting recital was given on July 3 at the Wigmore Hall by a young American singer, who calls herself Miss Lalla Nejma. Her songs were wholly in Arabic, and were culled from Tunisia (with one or two from Tripoli), Syria, and Egypt. She accompanied herself with the tom-tom and with a plucked stringed instrument, and although it was with the latter that she sang the purest and most classical Arab songs—the Syrian, in which, incidentally, a dash of Persian influence manifested itself—the former were more intriguing. This was probably due to the facts that (1) the accompaniments were too much "arranged" after Western methods, and (2) the quarter-tones so characteristic of Arab songs were incapable of instrumental reproduction.

Almost all Miss Nejma's songs were love-songs, mostly plaints of jilted love. One particularly beautiful example, however, sung exquisitely, was the song that Jewish mothers sing in Tunisia on the birth of their child.

This singer is obviously a very earnest student of Arabic songs, and certainly she is well endowed for her difficult task of interpreting Eastern music to Western minds. There is any amount of research to be done in Arabic music; particularly, its rhythmical possibilities are almost inexhaustible. And its melodies, though strange at first to our ears, are marvellously fascinating. One need think only of some of the songs which come from the Mohammedans of the Caucasus and from the Yemen—two countries untapped by Miss Nejma—to realise how rich and varied Arab music is. This music is, moreover, neither stagnant nor set; it is perpetually creative.

M. Bratiano, Roumanian Prime Minister, has gone to Carlsbad for a month's stay.

The Khalif Abdul Mejid has accepted the Nizam of Hyderabad's offer of a monthly pension of £300.

Thirteen Greek refugees have been killed by the fall of part of the ancient wall of Salonika near the citadel.

M. Caclamanos, the Greek Minister in London, will represent Greece at the London Conference.

According to the *Tanin*, a new and improved service of trains between Haidar Pasha and Angora started on July 11. Two trains now run daily, and the journey is done in fifteen hours instead of twenty-six.

While General Sir Walter Congreve, V.C., the new Governor of Malta, was sailing in Grand Harbour last Thursday, a sudden gust of wind capsized his boat. He was rescued by harbour craft.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

July 17, 1924 (New Style).
July 4, 1924 (Old Style).
Julheggia 14, 1342, A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Tamuz 15, 5684, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Gaekwar of Baroda left London on July 8 for Paris.

Sir Cowasji and Lady Jehanghir arrived at the Hotel Cecil last week.

The King received the Maharao of Cutch at Buckingham Palace on July 12.

The Roumanian Minister returned last Monday to 50, Grosvenor Street from Switzerland.

Queen Olga of Greece, attended by Mme. Baltazzi, arrived at Buckingham Palace on July 12.

Sir Milne and Lady Cheetham have arrived at 102, Eaton Place from the British Legation, Athens.

Mr. Howard Carter, who returned to London on July 8 after a tour in America, expects to leave for Luxor in November.

Lord and Lady Olivier gave an "at home" at the India Office on July 9 to meet members of the Parliamentary Labour Club.

Prince and Princess George of Greece, who have been staying at the Savoy Hotel, left London last week for their residence at St. Cloud.

The Crown Prince and Princess of Roumania arrived in London on July 15 on a visit to the Roumanian Minister and Mme. Titulesco.

Prince Nicholas of Greece and Princess Elizabeth of Greece were among the guests of Lady Cunard at dinner at the Ritz Hotel on July 9.

Sir Herbert Samuel, His Majesty's High Commissioner in Palestine, called at Buckingham Palace last Thursday, and was received in audience by the King.

Mr. D. T. Chadwick, Secretary to the Government of India in the Commerce Department, has come home on leave, and Mr. G. L. Corbett is holding the acting appointment.

The Bulgarian Minister returned from Paris last week, where, in his capacity as a member of the International Olympic Committee, he went to attend the official receptions in connection with the Olympic Games.

The King has granted authority for the wearing of the insignia of the following decoration:—Order of the Nile.—Fourth Class: Mr. Alwyn Douglas Home, H.M. Consul for North-West Abyssinia, Commercial Agent to the Sudan Government.

The guests entertained at lunch by Lady (Charles) Henry at Carlton Gardens, S.W., on July 10 included Sir Ronald and Lady Storrs, the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, the Persian Minister, the Egyptian Minister, and Prince and Princess Omar Halim.

The inaugural dinner of the Anglo-Egyptian Association was held at Prince's Restaurant last Thursday evening. Viscount Milner presided, and among those present were:—Katherine Countess of Cromer, the Bishop of Egypt and the Sudan, Mr. H. Farnall, Colonel H. G. and Mrs. Lyons, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Loyd, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. MacCallan (chairman, Executive Committee), Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Clifford Hall, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Elgood, Major and Mrs. Liddell, Mr. John Langley, Mr. L. Weldon, and Mr. and Mrs. J. F. G. Hopkins.

SIR CLAUD JACOB'S NEW POST.

General Sir Claud Jacob, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., A.D.C., is spending the summer and autumn on leave out of India, on relinquishing the appointment of Chief of the General Staff. On the expiration of his period of leave he will return to India and take over the Northern Command, in succession to General Sir William Birdwood, whose tenure expires at the end of October. Sir Claud Jacob began his service in the Worcestershire Regiment before transfer to the Indian Army. He successively commanded the Dehra Dun Brigade, the Meerut Division, the 21st Division, and the 2nd Army Corps.

THE 10TH BALUCH DINNER.

The 10th Baluch regimental dinner took place at the Monico Restaurant on June 28, and was presided over by Colonel Sir Charles Yate, Bart., C.S.I., C.M.G., D.L., M.P. The following officers were present:—Major-General Fowler, Brigadier-Generals Tanner and Wooldridge, Colonels Dyke and Hay, Lieut.-Colonels Craufurd-Stuart, Faithfull, Hulseberg, Holbrooke, Phillips, Twigg, and Yate, Majors Harvey-Kelly, Jacob, O'Neile, and Russell, Captains Blanford, Browne, Burden, Jardine, Jones, Lindsay, Miller, Parks, Pilcher, Powell, Pratt, Rendell, Stanger, Tomkins, Wace, and Lieutenants Allen, Arnold, Barber, Bartle-Pye, Hayes, Porter, and Salmon.

Mr. Avinoam Yellin, son of Mr. David Yellin, has been appointed Assistant District Officer for Jerusalem.

The new Belgian Minister in Athens, M. Guillaume, was formally received by the President of the Republic on July 8, and presented his credentials.

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THURSDAY, JULY 17, 1924.

PEACE IN PALESTINE.

It is ironical that just as one was beginning to feel some approach to normal political conditions in Palestine news should arrive of the murder of Dr. De Haan, the anti-Zionist leader of the Orthodox Jews in the Holy Land. For so long and well our Administration had fought to deal out even-handed justice, to quell party passions, and to reconcile post-War differences, that the success hinted at in the letter from our Jerusalem Correspondent in the issue of last week seemed almost about to crown its efforts. It is true that British officials in Palestine themselves could not yet see daylight, but they had certainly given to the Zionists the understanding that future applications of the Balfour Declaration would be whittling-down applications, and to the Arabs the impression that, whatever progress in the outside world might be made in the great scheme of the Arab Confederation, in Palestine the first and main aim—the creation of a Palestinian nation, in which Arab and Jew might live in harmony and prosperity—would persistently be worked for. Yet this murder of Dr. De Haan, lamentable and inexcusable as it is, does not at once plunge Palestine back again into the darkness which surrounded her when Britain found her, though it may depreciate Zionist currency in the eyes of the world. Such unfortunate incidents as this are a chronic phenomenon in Eastern countries; and it may be timely to remember, in condemning crimes like this, that political murders—if this be such—are by no means unknown in the West. Any constructive value that was attaching to the movement with which Dr. De Haan associated himself will not, we may trust, be nullified, and the delegation of Orthodox Jews—a highly respected and respectable body of men, whose opinion must be taken into account in any conceivable Palestine polity—which he was to have led in London, should find here sympathetic hearing. At the same time as announcement is made of this intended visit—one which concerns essentially the harmony of Palestine—another is made that representatives of Jaffa, both Arabs and Jews, are coming to London to protest against the building of a harbour at Haifa to the detriment of the town of Jaffa. Into the details of this dispute we have no desire to enter, except to remark that Mr. Frederick Palmer, the engineering expert, recommended that a harbour should be built at each port; what we would emphasise is the ease with which Arab and Jew can come together in common interest. At Jaffa, the town of evil memory, a real approach, it would appear, has been made to harmony. All over Palestine, indeed, Arab and Jew can live in peace where economic interests coincide.

Now, the political situation cannot be properly consolidated until Palestine is granted a loan to enable her to rid herself of existing liabilities, and we are pleased to see that the Home Government intends to guarantee such a loan. It need not be imagined that the loan would have any immediate effect, but politically it would be of immense value. At the moment the Administration's hands are tied almost in every direction; the one harassing cry is "Retrenchment, retrenchment"; and if Palestine could but settle her debts and once get a clean slate, the economic position would rapidly improve. Of this delay in the ridding of Palestine's financial incubus business men in that country are heartily, sometimes despairingly, tired; and no one will be more glad than they if the High Commissioner, now in London, can return to Palestine with the definite promise of a Government loan. Economic ills, however, cannot all be cured by political means. And not everyone in the Holy Land is waiting for the Government to effect an improvement in the situation; pleasant news comes from both Arab and Jewish sources that the fact is being realised that the remedy lies with the people themselves. As is well known, the future of the Holy Land must be with the agriculturist—attempts on any large scale to industrialise it are, we think, doomed to failure—and it is one of the most hopeful signs in the history of the country since the British Administration assumed control that the new Hebron Peasant Party, which, accepting the situation as it is, intends to develop a severely practical policy, should have sprung into such prominence. This prominence it certainly deserves, for it has the extraordinary but common sense, denied to many of its rivals of both races, of recognising at once the British Mandate and a certain limitation to its aims. The emergence of this party from a situation which many, especially outside, observers had declared to be irremediable is without doubt, as our Jerusalem Correspondent suggests, an exemplification of the fact that the fatalistic Palestinian will inevitably make the best of things as they are. One may hope that the Administration will quickly recognise the merits of this party, and, if possible, foster similar movements elsewhere. On the other hand, the type of Jewish immigrant, which had caused so much trouble to the native inhabitants of the Holy Land and fear in the hearts of the Zionist Executive that the land had reached saturation point, has recently changed for the better. Zionists are now going to Palestine who are self-supporting, and who therefore will not wish, as did their predecessors, in a few months' time to emigrate. Jewish unemployment, which but a short time ago was the source of nightmares, is now very low indeed, and it looks as if the Zionist movement in the nick of time has saved itself.

As we have said above, some officials in Palestine cannot yet see daylight. But it may be that, so close are they to Arab intransigence and to Jewish assumed superiority, they cannot see the wood for the trees. We, at any rate, are inclined to think that, unheralded and almost unsuspected, dawn may at last be breaking over the Judean hills. May not the quiet that nearly without interruption Palestine has for months enjoyed be the hush before such a dawn; and the survival of a terrible 1923 and of an extremely bad winter season 1923-1924 proof of an irresistible vitality which many observers, both pro- and anti-Turk, would swear she did not possess? Whether this view be too optimistic or not, the British Government's great experiment in Palestine will, to all appearances, be persisted in; there is as yet no thought of withdrawal. Britain is in Palestine for the purpose of building a Palestinian nation: it is not, as was stated in a recent Haifa commercial report, there for its own ends; nor is it, as Zionist papers both in Palestine and in England assert that it should be, there to enable the Jews to become dominant over the Arabs. It is there simply to

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fulfil, to the best of its ability, its promises both to Arab and to Jew. We recognise that we should beware of false dawns, and we remember especially the fact that in the immense scheme of the Arab Confederation Palestine is still included. In particular, the Arabs of Syria yet look with hope for the incorporation of Palestine in a Greater Syria and subsequently in a Greater Arabia, but in Arabia itself, we believe, a truer appreciation of the facts obtains. A more correct perspective is, in fact, befalling both Arab Nationalist and Zionist. They are now down—at least, a sufficient percentage of men are down—to bedrock; and, while they may continue to quarrel about excrescences and superficials, they can build on the fundamental fact that Palestine is held, and is to be held, by Great Britain, an edifice worthy of their respective intellects and ideals. Palestinians may, in a word, look with benefit both to Arabia and to Britain—to the West as well as to the East.

And not by eastern windows only.
When daylight comes, comes in the light;
In front, the sun climbs slow, how slowly,
But westward, look, the land is bright.

THE REAL MIRAGE.

By V. C. BOYLE.

Mirage is a distortion of the appearance of remote objects due to refraction of the rays of light. It is brought about by the differences of temperature making layers of air differ from each other in optical density. The effects have been variously described.

It fell to my lot, whilst on service in Mesopotamia, to live out of doors for nearly three years, and during that time and for the fifteen months I was in India I kept notes and drawings made on the spot of mirage phenomena. It seems to me now that either I had a very unusual series of experiences, or that travellers, geographers, and essayists have been engaged in a vast conspiracy to out-mirage the mirage.

Physiography books are safe. They describe exceptional appearances and name them as such. Ships have been seen upside down in the sky, cities in the air, and trees on a horizon where no trees are. The trouble is that these scientific descriptions have been unintelligently used by untrained observers to eke out their meagre supply of first-hand knowledge. It has become the fashion to describe mythical cities of Manoa and impossible Edens in the midst of deserts.

I believe it has been done innocently enough. The keen, quick Englishman engaged on supply or engineering work in a Mesopotamian base, and having a weekly ride into the country, is just the kind of person who publishes his experiences. But he writes with preconceived notions, and dimly remembers the pictures in the physiography text-books. His account of mirage is ruined.

Ordinary mirage, the sight that one sees every day over the desert and silt plains of Iraq, is commonly said to look like water. Men appear to be wading, convoys are said to look as if up to axles in a broad, placid lake. A writer who was in Amara in 1916 says that the chief thing which arouses suspicions that there is not actually any water is that little spirts of dust are seen among the wheels—a quite clever observation.

As a matter of fact, this thin ribbon of pale blue which stretches along the horizon, detaching a slip of earth from its place and lifting it up, this "lake" is more like water than anything else in the world, but it is not *much* like water. Though it seems to bear reflections of the people and buildings on the further margin, it is easily disposed of by one infallible test, so that no intelligent person need be deceived a second time. The poor pilgrims who have toiled on hopefully towards a delectable lake which ever receded from them must all have been very stupid and unobservant persons.

For the lake bobs as one walks, and if one kneels down it broadens and comes nearer, which is quite the reverse behaviour to that of a real expanse of water. At Es Sinn, near Kut, in 1916, I saw "pools" of mirage about 500 yards away. I sat down. They doubled their area and also "doubled" towards me till they seemed within two hundred yards of me. I remember that the ground there was hard and bare. This was the closest that any considerable mirage ever approached me.

On any sunny day in Mesopotamia men and animals change their appearance as they recede. On the skyline a couple of miles away they become mere grey feathery moving blobs, a little raised into the pale sky. Grazing camels look like fantastic loops and arches when seen through field glasses. The horizon quivers, especially if there is wind. Tamarisk bushes wave and blur at half a mile away when the sun is high, and all objects at that distance become elongated vertically. "Eye-Witness," a distinguished war correspondent who has been all over the East and much in the desert, says that tamarisks often look like men, and vividly describes how, whilst he was riding out with some cavalry one hot day when the air was full of blowing dust, the whole party was deceived by mirage, and actually prepared to receive the attack of some phantom Arab horsemen. And these horsemen turned out to be mud pillars! I accuse "Eye-Witness" of having a journalistic imagination; for though bushes do not look like bushes on such a day, neither they nor mud pillars look in the least like men.

The only case I know of where a man was so deceived was that of a comrade of mine who, during a terrible march we made in May, 1916, nearly died of thirst and exhaustion. He told me that as he lay there alone in the burning sun he seemed to see the quivering scrub around him change into Turks and Arabs. I do not wonder at that.

Mirage distortions are generally greatest at midday, and, except for a few hours in early morning and evening, both our artillery and the enemy's was silent, owing to the utter impossibility of ranging and observing fire.

It must be noted that mirage either elongates an object vertically or else lifts the image bodily up; so that every strange-looking dot or smudge on the skyline has, so to speak, some foundation

ASK FOR WHITE HORSE WHISKY BY APPOINTMENT.

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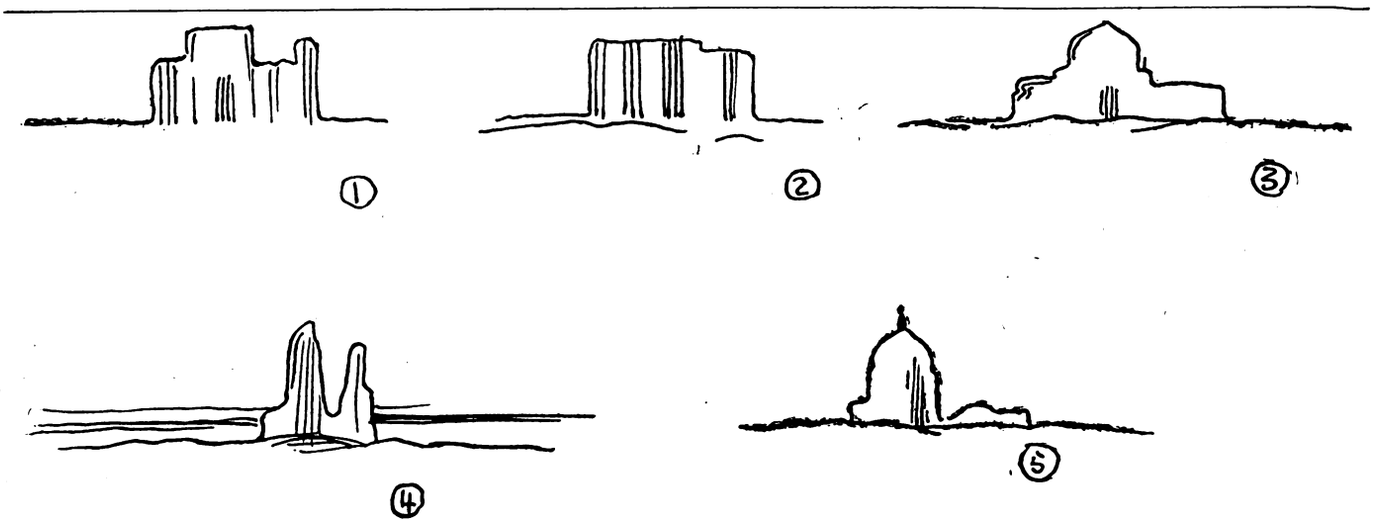

A series of five sketches made between 7 5 a.m. and 7.15 a.m. on the morning of October 24, 1917. Ana's tomb, a small mud shrine with a dome, in the desert, about 20 miles from Basra. Sun in mirage through field glasses. The changes were all over in each case in two minutes. After 7.15 the appearance was normal, roughly as in No. 3. In No. 4 the horizontal lines in rear are a Euphrates marsh, probably eight miles further off. In No. 5 the black object on the dome is an Arab scout who has climbed there for a look round.

in fact, exactly below it, but further off. There is never any lateral displacement. Thus the cities and ships in the sky of the physiography books are always images exactly over the real cities and ships, which the traveller may reach—how soon may not be guessed. This fact disposes of most fanciful stories. As an instance, a few years ago a reputable monthly published an account of a ride from Baghdad to Babylon. The writer alleges that he saw a charming little mosque beside a pleasant date grove on the verge of a lake, all on the horizon ahead; and that when he approached this delightful oasis there was no more material than a dilapidated mud dome and *two* draggled date trees.

What he really saw was no doubt the wavering images of *two* trees and the smudged mass of the mosque, all striated vertically. No mirage ever turned two trees into a grove.

In February, 1918, whilst over thirty miles west of the mouth of the Shatt-el-Arab and well out of sight of it by reason of the earth's curvature, I stood at my tent door and saw some long, intensely bright streaks under the sun, which had not long been up. I got out my telescope, which had a magnification of thirty, and saw easily the features of the river, with lagoons, beaches, and clumps and rows of date palms. There was a little flaring here and there of the silvery "water," but otherwise no distortion. I told my commanding officer what I saw, but he only laughed at me. "Why, man," said he, "there's no water within a day's ride that way!" Nevertheless, I was right, and before we parted I described to him accurately some country which ordinarily would have been invisible unless one could get a view from a station two hundred feet high. It was Umm Qasr, thirty miles away.

This recognition of "mirage over water," and experience in naming blurred images of buildings and other objects, has often been useful. It will be noticed that a glass of some sort is necessary. In 1917 I was able to make a drawing of Kut-el-Amara from a point fourteen miles away on ground which was perfectly flat except for a long ridge, fifty feet high (the Sinn Abtar Redoubt), which rose between me and the village. The whole distance was "lifted up," and I was able, at leisure, to draw it house by house, tree by tree. It was much striated, and experience was needed to interpret the details. I used a glass magnifying only three times.

Mirage occurs at night to a surprising extent. Whilst my regiment was in this same district we were tantalised by lights as of lanterns or fires. glowing on the skyline at night. We could see them from the fire-step of my blockhouse, when our eyes were almost on the ground level, so that one would suppose they could not be more than a thousand yards away. An enterprising machine-gun crew even went out and lay in wait thereabouts. I was able to prove that the fires, which were in the camps of Bedouin shepherds, were fifteen miles or so away. As in the former cases, I was laughed at, and later on I heard of a company commander who advanced a similar explanation and was discredited.

Sometimes amusing tricks are played by mirage with the shapes of buildings, as will be seen from the drawings of a little mosque, Imam Anas, which I made one morning near Shaiba. All these shapes were drawn on the spot within ten minutes. The distance was about two miles.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Patiala State.

We give this week a review of the exhibits in the Patiala State Court in the Indian Pavilion at Wembley, together with an account of the State and of the career of H.H. the Maharaja. Far too little is known in this country of the Indian States, and it is eminently satisfactory that a number of them—among whom are to be numbered some of the leading States—have taken advantage of the opportunity afforded by the Exhibition to give the rest of the Empire a glimpse of their material progress and their possibilities. It is to be regretted that the appeal of the Exhibition was not more universal; perhaps, if it is to be continued next year, the ranks of the exhibiting States will be largely increased.

The Egyptian Tribute Loans.

Considerable disquiet has been occasioned in the City in view of the attitude adopted by the Egyptian Government in respect of the Ottoman loans secured on the Egyptian Tribute, and this feeling has found expression in the development of a pronounced weakness in the securities in question. The view taken by the Finance Committee of the Egyptian Chamber is briefly that, since Egypt is no longer connected with Turkey, the liability to continue the tribute ceases to exist. That this represents the view of the Egyptian Goverment has been made clear by Zaghloul Pasha, who has stated that no further payments will be made after the instalment that fell due on July 12, until the liability or otherwise of Egypt has been settled. The Egyptian Government favours a conference to determine the question, and otherwise it intends to bring the question before The Hague. What the outcome will be it is impossible to tell.

Sudan Trade Expansion.

The figures of the trade of the Sudan for the first four months of this year make an excellent showing. The value of the exports is £E1,241,360, as compared with £E957,044 for the corresponding period of 1923, while the figures for the imports are £E1,794,755, as against £E1,205,099. Including re-exports and goods in transit, the volume of trade at £E3,123,062 shows an increase of £E831,582. It will be noticed that the expansion of imports has been greater than in the case of exports, so that the adverse balance of trade is rather more pronounced. It will not be long, however, before the opposite tendency is to be noted, as the works of development now in progress in the Sudan come to fruition.

The Turkish Position.

The report on conditions in Turkey last year of Colonel Woods—extracts from which are given elsewhere in this issue—gives a vivid sidelight on the difficulties with which traders were confronted in a period when the Turks, in their enthusiasm for new things, were introducing all manner of rules and regulations without a clear appreciation of their incidence. As the months wore on and growing experience came to reinforce unbridled enthusiasm, things began to change slowly for the better, but it would represent excessive optimism to say that even now the conditions confronting the commercial community are not extremely adverse. Still, progress is being made, and it is something that the tendency is in the right direction.

The Roumanian Mining Law.

The text of the Roumanian Mining Law scarcely gives the impression that its operation is likely to prove so innocuous to foreign enterprise in the oil industry as appeared probable from the summarised reports of the measure when it passed into law. Of course, the measure does not owe its inception to the desire to facilitate foreign enterprise, but Roumania needs foreign assistance as much as any country in the development of her great resources, and any steps that tend to hinder foreign co-operation can only have the effect of retarding the country's progress. As a result of representations from various quarters, amendments were introduced during the passage of the measure which have had the effect of greatly improving it from the external point of view, but as it stands it cannot be regarded as satisfactory, and very much will depend on the way in which it is administered. *Prima facie*, it would seem doubtful whether the effect of the law will not be to restrict the operations of foreign oil companies to their existing holdings. Should that prove to be the case, Roumania may swiftly find herself confronted with the necessity for altering the law.

The Trade Outlook.

Opinions are divided on the future course of trade, but there is no division of views as to whether or not we have seen the worst of the depression which has hung over commerce for so many weary months. Europe is still an obstacle to a real trade recovery, and any revival that takes place which does not represent a very real advance in reconstruction in that region will have no solid foundation. It is satisfactory to know, however, that real progress is being made, and if only the forthcoming Conference can produce a solution for the problems that are hindering developments in Europe we shall be within sight of a period of unlimited trade expansion.

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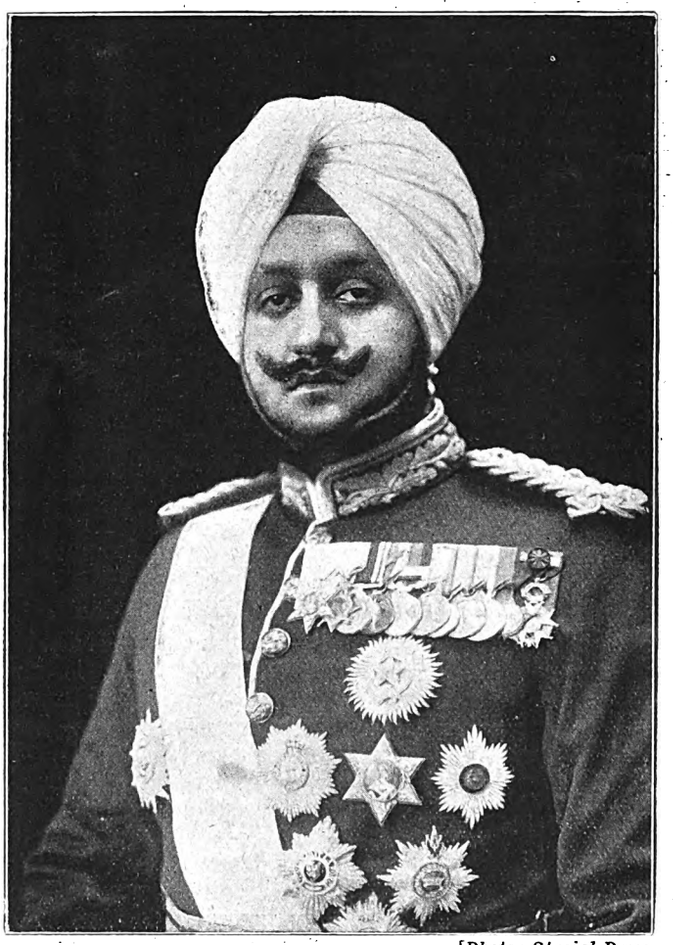
PATIALA STATE AT THE EXHIBITION.

Just as it can be said with truth that those who visit Wembley and omit to see what India has to show have missed one of the most interesting things in the Exhibition, so it can also be emphasised that the omission to see the Patiala Court in the Indian Pavilion would mean that one of its most notable features had been overlooked. Of all the sections in the pavilion there is certainly none calculated to make a greater appeal to the visitor, with the magnificent specimens of tigers and other wild animals that are shown and with the fine display of heads of game on the walls. Sport is, in fact, the predominant characteristic of the Court, and the exhibits might well serve as an epitome of a side of Indian life with which everyone is familiar. But there are many other exhibits of interest besides the wonderful collection of trophies of the jungle, most of which have fallen to H.H. the Maharaja of Patiala himself. There are a variety of minerals, notably marble in several colours and of wonderful beauty. There are also examples of the numerous small industries of the State, of cloths in most alluring patterns and designs, of exquisite lace in gold and silver leaf, fit to adorn the robes of kings, and of a variety of other objects. Two special features of the Court must be mentioned before saying something about the State and its ruler. One is a jewelled book containing a poem which is illustrated throughout in a superb manner. Mere words cannot describe it adequately, for it is a veritable masterpiece, and of its kind probably ranks among the wonders of the world. The other is an intricate mechanical chessboard complete with two single clocks, and each time a piece is moved the time of the move is automatically recorded, so that instead of knowing that one has made, say, 36 moves in 119 minutes, one has the exact time for each of the moves.



[*Photo: Special Press*

Major-General H.H. THE MAHARAJA BHUPINDER SINGH OF PATIALA, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., A.D.C.

Patiala State lies in the Punjab, and is the largest of the three Phulkian States. Its area is about 6,000 square miles, and the population at the last census was 1,499,739, while the revenue of the State amounts to £8,500,000. The territory comprising the State is rather scattered, and it naturally follows that conditions vary considerably in the different parts. In certain tracts the heat is very great in the hot season, while in the Pinjaur Hills district it is bearable. The rainfall also varies greatly, ranging from 12 ins. up to 40 ins., which is reached in the part of the State that lies below the Simla hill region. Agriculture is, of course, the staple industry, and cultivation is well developed; indeed, rather over four-fifths of the total area is utilised, and only a comparatively negligible area still remains to be brought into cultivation. The chief food crops are grain, barley, wheat, millet, and maize; other crops grown include rice, tobacco,

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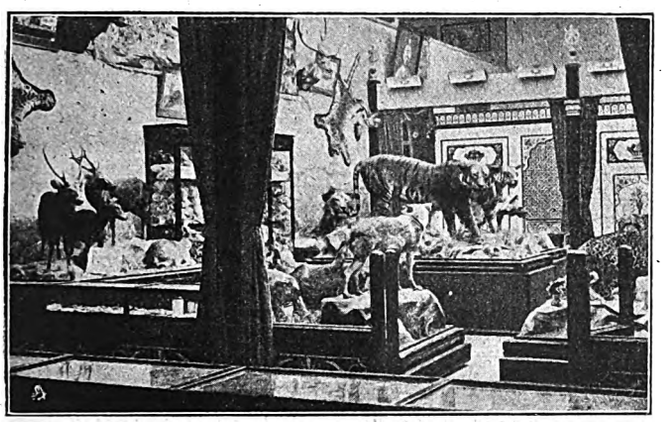
mustard, potatoes, cotton, and sugar-cane. It will be seen that the range of agriculture is fairly extensive. The system of cultivation has been considerably improved during the last decade or so, and though the old-fashioned implements are still in use, the introduction of modern methods is gradually leading to their replacement by present-day machinery. The forests of Patiala are very valuable, and the timbers produced occupy an important place in the Court. The State also possesses valuable mineral resources. The minerals found in-



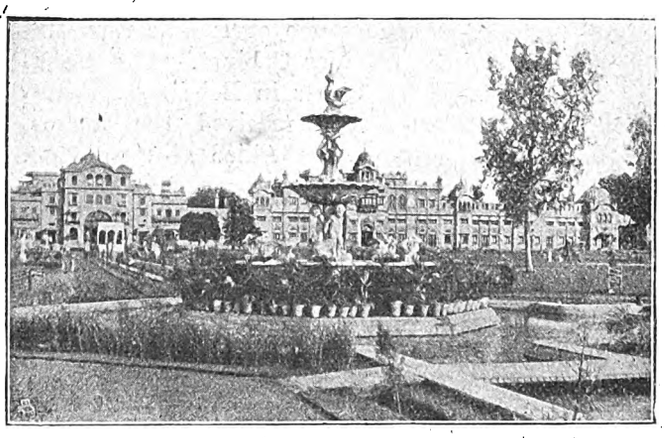
PATIALA STATE COURT: A GENERAL VIEW

clude copper and iron ores, mica, saltpetre, and marble. Examples of all these are on view, and the exhibits include a piece of marble made of the seven different kinds of that mineral that exist in the State. It is by the medium of the mineral deposits that the State is likely to develop important industries. In a report issued four years ago by the State Mines Department, following the prospecting of the mineral-producing areas by the Department on the initiative of His Highness, detailed reference is made to the possibility of initiating iron and steel works, and the view taken was that the development would be quite practicable. The establishment of a cement industry was also advocated, and in both these directions much promise is entertained for the future. At present, as in the case of all purely agricultural regions, industries are relatively unimportant. The manufactures include cotton fabrics, and a large selection of these is shown in red and gold and yellow. Silk is another of the country's principal industries, and among the exhibits are silk waistbands in yellow, blue, pink, and red. The gold and silver lace industry is of considerable importance, and, as indicated above, the reels of gold and silver lace are a feature of the Court. There ought to be an extensive market for this lace in this country. Wooden posts for beds are produced at more than one centre in Patiala, and a selection of these products is shown, while another side of the State's economic progress is illustrated by the exhibits of gold sleeve-links and studs. Of special interest are some charming head coverings in red with an exquisite border, while the exhibits also include a variety of ornate sandals. There are many other things of interest, notably a choice collection of old arms belonging to the State Armoury.

As already indicated, the wild game trophies make a wonderful showing. There is much to interest the sportsman, and it is not surprising that the Court should be one of the most crowded places in the Indian Pavilion. The walls are tastefully adorned with heads of game, among which may be mentioned an Indian gazelle with 15-in. antlers—the record—a specimen of a Chitral deer, also a record head, and a jungle sambar. A specimen of a man-eating tiger, measuring 9 ft. 8 ins., is on view, while other specimens include a group of hog deer, hyenas and jackals, black buck, and the boar which fell to the prowess of the Prince of Wales during his visit to the Maharaja.

H.H. the Maharaja Bhupinder Singh, the present ruler of Patiala, was born on October 12, 1891, and from the death of his father, H.H. Maharaja Rajinder Singh, in 1900, to the termination of his minority in 1909, the affairs of the State were managed by a Council of Regency. He was educated at the Aitchison College, Lahore, and soon showed indications of the great qualities that he has displayed throughout his reign. One of his first public appearances was at the Delhi Durbar in 1903, when only twelve years old, when he attracted much admiration by the gallant way in which he led the troops at the Review. Two years later His Highness was invited to meet the King-Emperor (then the Prince of Wales) at Lahore, and on that occasion he gave one lakh of rupees for the foundation of a foreign scholarship, and commemorated the safe return to England of the Prince and Princess of Wales by a further gift of 50,000 rupees, which was divided between the Queen Mary Girls' School and Lady Minto's Fund for Nurses.

On September 30, 1909, His Highness took over the reins of Government, and on November 3, 1910, he was invested with full ruling powers at Patiala by the Viceroy, Lord Minto. His career has been memorable in the history of Patiala for the way in which he has furthered in every way the material progress of the State. Education and sanitation have come in for special attention. It may be mentioned here that Patiala is the only



MOTI BAGH PALACE, PATIALA.

State in Northern India where free education is provided.

His Highness is a keen sportsman, as the trophies in the Court testify, and besides the delights of the hunt he takes a special interest in cricket, and captained the Indian XI. in England in 1911. He was present at the Coronation in that year, and also took a leading part at the succeeding Delhi Durbar, when the G.C.I.E. was conferred upon him. At the Purdah reception at the Durbar it fell to Her Highness the Maharani to

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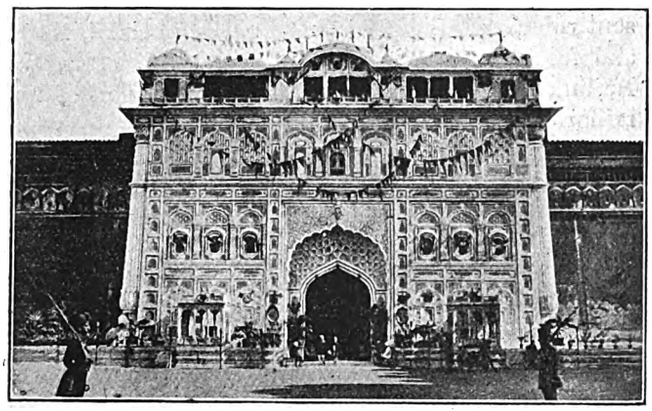
present to the Queen-Empress an address, together with a magnificent jewel, on behalf of the women of India.

The outbreak of the Great War marked a new chapter in the history of the State. The loyalty of the rulers of Patiala is traditional, and His Highness at once offered all the resources of the State to the King-Emperor, and claimed the privilege of leading his troops in person. His Highness was one of the Ruling Princes chosen to go to France with the Indian Expeditionary Force, and was given the



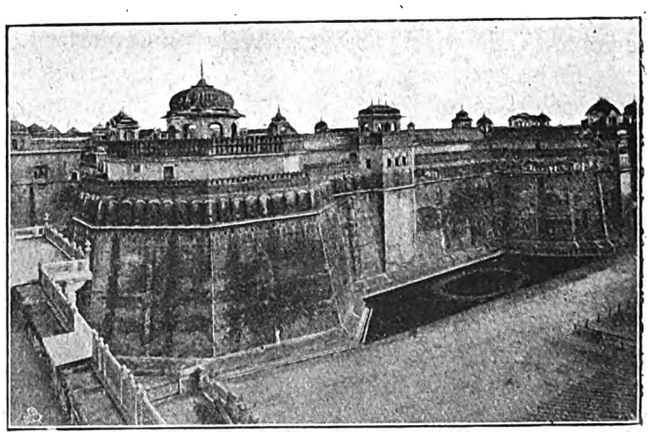
PATIALA FORT.

rank of Honorary Lieut.-Colonel in the British Army. On October 5, 1914, the Maharaja left for the Western Front, but was unhappily taken seriously ill at Aden, and, on medical advice, had to return to India. It was a bitter disappointment to His Highness, who devoted himself thenceforward to serving in other ways, and owing to his efforts Patiala continued to send out a stream of men, money, and material, and when the war ended its record in this direction was second to that of no other State in India. Following the Russian collapse His Highness was invited to sit on the Central Recruiting Board, and in April, 1918, in response to the Premier's appeal, he at once offered to raise three new battalions. His great services to the Empire received signal recognition by his selection as one of India's representatives on the Imperial War Cabinet. The Maharaja visited the Allied Fronts in Belgium, France, Italy, and Palestine, and received the highest honours and titles from the Allied Governments. The King-Emperor invested him with the insignia of the G.B.E., and he was also promoted to the rank of Major-General. Subsequently His Highness was appointed Honorary Colonel of the 15th Ludhiana Sikhs and also Honorary Colonel of the newly raised 140th Patiala Infantry. The decorations of His Highness, in addition to the G.B.E., are the G.C.S.I., the G.C.I.E., and the G.C.V.O. Among the foreign decorations His Highness has received are the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, the Grand Cross of the Order of Leopold, the Grand Cross of the Crown of Italy, the Grand Cross of the Order of Roumania, and the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Nile. In 1917 His Highness and his successors were exempted for all time from the presentation of Nazar, while the personal salute has been raised from seventeen to nineteen guns.

It may be of interest here to place on record the statistics of the part played by the State in the Great War. Altogether, Patiala contributed about 28,000 men, and the Patiala troops served in all the main theatres of war and gained no less than 125 battle distinctions. The State also furnished 1,000 camels, 259 mules, and 400 horses for transport and remount branches, and a motor flotilla for service in Mesopotamia. Further, Rs. 35 lakhs were subscribed to War Loans, and the State helped the British Government to tide over the currency crisis by a timely loan of Rs. 10 lakhs of silver crores without interest. The State's contributions in money amounted to nearly Rs. 1¼ crores, and in material to about Rs. 9 lakhs.

The year following the conclusion of the Great War was unfortunately marked by disturbances in the Punjab. His Highness gave the fullest assistance to the Government, and detachments of the State troops were stationed at important railway junctions in Patiala territory, while lines of communication, roads, telegraphs, and telephones were adequately protected. As a result of these prompt measures order was maintained in Patiala and in the neighbouring territory. In the Afghan War of the same year His Highness immediately offered his services and those of his troops. The offer was accepted by the Government of India, and His Highness served on the staff of the G.O.C., North-West Frontier Forces. The State cavalry served in Baluchistan, and the infantry on the Peshawar front throughout the campaign.

It remains to be added that the Maharaja is one of the leading figures in the Princes' Chamber, and is keenly interested in the deliberations of that body. His main pre-occupation, naturally, is with the special problems of the State over which he rules, and he is now concerning himself with such important innovations as the introduction of the principle of representation in municipalities and district wards. Very important agricultural and industrial schemes are also in train from which excellent results are to be anticipated, and, of course, these and other developments will be much facilitated by the existence of the State Bank, which was founded in 1917, and has already fully justified its existence. Patiala may never have industries in the sense that they are understood here, but there is no doubt that with the assistance and



PATIALA FORT: A SIDE VIEW.

inspiration of far-sighted rulers like the present Maharaja, who is ably supported by his Prime Minister, the State can proceed far on the path of material progress. The exhibits in the Patiala Court illustrate very clearly the possibilities of the State.

Mr. W. Chand is responsible for the excellent arrangement of the Court, in which task he has been assisted by Mr. W. M. Hutton, naturalist and taxidermist.

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British Consular Reports.

IV.—TURKEY.

The Situation in 1923.

The following extracts are taken from the report on the economic and commercial conditions in Turkey in 1923 of the British Commercial Secretary at Constantinople, Colonel H. Woods, O.B.E. :—

The latter part of 1922 and the earlier part of the period under review were marked by the enforcement of Angora's legislation in Constantinople and in other centres hitherto estranged from the authority of the new régime. One of the first acts of the régime was the application of the Specific Tariff, the rates of which had been considerably increased at different times, and which, by a law promulgated in May, 1921, were in several cases raised from a five-fold to a fifteen-fold rate, import prohibitions being applied as well, on a large number of articles classified by Angora as articles of luxury. A serious impediment to trade has been the payment twice over of customs duties on goods shipped from Constantinople to Ottoman ports in Asia Minor which had already been subjected to duty on their import to Constantinople.

Customs Regulations.

Several restrictions were also imposed in connection with customs legislation generally.

(1) Monetary guarantees equivalent to the value of prohibited goods not yet cleared from the customs were imposed on the same on their reshipment from the country.

(2) Guarantees equivalent to the higher rates of duty were also imposed in cases where consignees, rather than clear their goods, preferred to ship to foreign ports.

(3) Bank guarantees equivalent to the value of goods in transit were exacted, the refund only being effected in cases where convincing documentary proof was forthcoming to show that such transit goods had arrived at their destination.

(4) Customs regulations were applied, based on legislation promulgated in April, 1918, in conformity with the general policy whereby the Turkish language was made compulsory for business houses and firms. Shipping agents were called upon to present manifests and orders of delivery in Turkish, special forms being provided by the customs authorities. These forms, which are still in use, caused at the time considerable annoyance to parties interested owing to the very limited space allotted for the designation and markings of consignments, as well as the difficulty in translating technical terms and markings. A further point to which shipping agents took exception was that the use of a uniform order of delivery form greatly increased the possibility of fraud, in that the shipping companies no longer could issue their own forms, over the issue of which the strictest control can be and was exercised. Shipping agents were further called upon to supply lists in Turkish of merchandise delivered direct to consignees from the ship's side, hitherto supplied in a foreign language. Agents were further called upon to draw up export manifests in Turkish before vessels sailed, as well as bills of lading for goods shipped in Turkish ports.

(5) In accordance with legislation promulgated in April, 1918, vessels were obliged to obtain a permit before the discharge of their cargoes could be effected, such permit only being granted after the vessel had been boarded by a customs official.

(6) Restrictions were also imposed on the discharge and shipment of cargoes, in that these operations could only be effected between the hours of sunrise and sunset. Great delay was, therefore, caused to shipping, for to obtain a permit to discharge, a vessel was obliged to wait its turn for the visit of the customs officer. The customs control of steamers arriving at Constantinople with cargo from foreign ports also consists, before the permit to discharge is granted, in comparing the original manifests (issued at these ports) with the steamers' check books. Attempts have been made by the customs to fine steamers for discrepancies between the check book and the manifests. Steamers leaving Constantinople with cargo loaded at Turkish ports for foreign destinations were also subjected to a control of manifests with the shipping notes issued by the agent.

(7) A particularly difficult exaction of the customs is the payment of double duty on goods which, owing to unforeseen circumstances, were not manifested. In cases where the captain does not declare the existence of such goods before his vessel commences to discharge, the customs confiscate them, there being no appeal.

(8) Customs immunity granted to goods imported for schools and religious institutions was cancelled.

(9) In April, 1922, the Grand National Assembly made certain amendments in connection with laws governing consumption taxes. The following articles were submitted to a consumption tax of (piastres per kilog): Rice, 10; margarine, 80; candles, 30; ordinary soap, 5; sacks (old and new), 5; spices, 30. Moreover, all sweetstuffs, glucose, biscuits, chocolate, condensed milk, and helva were subjected to a consumption tax of 15 piastres per kilo., according to the degree of sugar they contained.

(10) The customs without due warning raised the five-fold tariff rate on certain farinaceous products such as macaroni, pastes, biscuits, etc., to a twelve-fold rate, adding linseed oil to the list of articles subjected to consumption taxes, classifying this commodity with margarine.

Improvement in Conditions.

There was a marked improvement in customs legislation later on, for as the new régime gradually established relations with foreign trade, it was realised that hasty legislation in many cases was in conflict with the economic interests of the country. Goods figuring on the prohibited list were granted a month's delay to be cleared on the 15-fold basis. The monetary guarantees referred to were abolished. The guarantees under (2) were partly abolished, the presentation of duplicates of original bills of lading being considered sufficient proof that the goods were shipped to a foreign port. These facilities were granted in cases where the goods were shipped on vessels belonging to well-known established lines. Goods in transit were also freed of vexatious restrictions, such as the guarantees referred to in (3). Eventually the fifteen-fold rates referred to were reduced to a twelve-fold co-efficient and the prohibitions can-

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celled. Shipping agents were permitted to furnish on orders of delivery a rendering in a foreign language of the inscriptions in Turkish.

A marked improvement in conditions which prevailed at the customs was the transfer back to Constantinople of the Direction General of the Customs Administration. This has been a wise step of the Government, which realised that customs administration could not be efficiently directed from the interior of Asia Minor. The Director-General is placed in direct contact with the merchant, and litigious matters can in many cases be settled without an appeal to Angora. Co-ordination has been established. A tariff commission has been instituted with a view to settling difficulties in so far as the classification of goods for clearance is concerned. The consumption duty on linseed oil has been abolished.

Vessels are now authorised to discharge or load at any time of the day and night provided permits for these operations have been obtained. There are further signs of improvement, and the Direction-General has shown willingness to consider and modify any restrictions which may be considered to be detrimental to trade, provided always that with such modifications a strict control on customs operations can be maintained and an efficient check on contraband established.

Although there have been rumours from time to time regarding the re-establishment of prohibitions on certain commodities, such as coal and artificial silk, the protectionist tendency of the new régime has considerably calmed down, and also taking into consideration the gradual readjustment of customs administration and the fact that in some cases the Specific Tariff rates, e.g., cotton goods, Group XV. of the Tariff, do not exceed the pre-War 11 per cent. ad valorem régime, and that payment twice over of customs duty on goods shipped from Constantinople to Anatolian ports has been abolished, there is no reason why the present customs administration should be an obstacle to trade.

The Dry Régime.

The "dry régime," the application of which was threatened throughout the year, was finally put into effect. The import of alcoholic liquor had already been prohibited early in the year, but holders of stocks in the town of Constantinople had a good opportunity of disposing of a considerable part of them. With the application of the "dry régime," however, the open sale of alcoholic liquor ceased, and stockholders were called upon to declare their holdings, which were duly registered by the police and placed under seal. Wholesale importers, unable to clear their consignments through the customs, were very severely hit, as well as holders of stocks in town, for, although the latter were able to sell a certain quantity of stock at high prices before the police authorities applied their control, it is doubtful whether they were able by means of these high prices to compensate themselves for the loss entailed by the immobilisation of part of their stocks The authorities, by the application of the "dry régime," have been successful in: Destroying the spirit revenue of the Ottoman Public Debt; depriving a large number of persons from earning a livelihood; destroying an industry; and considerably reducing the culture of the vine. It is stated that the authorities, having realised that the application of the "dry régime" has immobilised a native industry, affected the revenue of the State, and increased unemployment, have decided to abolish Prohibition, and to permit the sale of alcoholic liquors under Government control. It is thought that the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors will be re-established in the form of a State monopoly.

Cabotage and Port Services.

The period under review concluded with the publication of an order emanating from Angora, governing the nationalisation of cabotage and port services. According to these regulations, salvage work was to be confined to the national flag as from January 1. Two foreign salvage companies were affected by this decision. With the exception of the lines privileged to continue cabotage service, all foreign vessels were ordered to cease cabotage in Turkish waters, their activities being limited to disembarking passengers and cargoes from foreign ports only. Foreign tugs, steamboats, motor-boats, lighters, barges, rowing boats, dredgers, rafts and fishing boats trafficking in Turkish ports, in the Straits, and Sea of Marmora, were ordered to cease functioning. Foreign fishermen, divers, pilots, stevedores, bumboatmen, lightermen, captains, and seamen were also warned that, as from January 1, they would no longer be authorised to carry on their work.

Shipping circles viewed these regulations with alarm. This alarm was justified, for, with their application, chaos ruled in the port of Constantinople. Pilotage under Turkish management was defective. Towage likewise, owing to inexperience and lack of craft. There being no Turkish salvage organisation, master mariners and agents viewed the situation with grave apprehension. Here, again, they were justified, for there was more than one instance of vessels in distress having to remain in a hazardous position until the authorities were made to realise the grave dangers to which their own shipping was exposed as a result of these ill-conceived regulations. In addition, by the immobilisation of foreign-owned lighters, the lightermen's guild obtained complete monopoly, and it was feared that, owing to lack of competition, charges would increase. Owing to the reservation of cabotage, freights as between Ottoman ports rose considerably, which not only increased the cost of living in certain native commodities, but, owing to lack of Turkish bottoms, shortage in certain native commodities was felt, especially as regards coal.

Although the situation has gradually ameliorated, due to an improvement in Turkish pilotage and towage, on the one hand, and to the fact that foreign salvage vessels are now permitted to function, nationalisation of port services is handicapping the efforts which certain organisations are making for the economic revival of the port of Constantinople. There are, however, signs of genuine desire on the part of the authorities and of Turkish commercial circles in general to revive the economic conditions in the port. In this connection two important national institutions—that of the "Union Nationale de Commerce Turc" and the Constantinople Chamber of Commerce, have given proofs of their willingness to co-operate with foreign institutions. There have been many criticisms in the Press from time to time which are justified to a great extent. The new régime, which so successfully revived the military ardour of a defeated people, has naturally experienced some inevitable difficulty in setting up an effective civil administration.

Good progress might have been made by the Government early in 1923 to encourage trade. Wise legislation might have accomplished a great deal towards the re-establishment of confidence. Unfortunately, this has not been the case. The Government has endeavoured to encourage development of native industry by the application of protective legislation, which in many cases has not

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had the desired effect. There are signs, however, of an awakening. The Government is already perturbed at Constantinople's decreasing importance as a transit centre. Some considerable progress has already been effected towards the modification of hasty laws and regulations. Further mistakes will be made without doubt, progress will be slow, but even at the present slow pace, if continued in the right direction, happier results than those recorded in 1923 will be obtained.

(*To be concluded.*)

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

The Crop Outlook.

The Manchester cotton trade review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended July 12 states :—

Raw cotton has regained a little of the fall caused by the publication of the Bureau report last week, but the expectation continues strong in Manchester that the crop will be a good one, and that lower prices are bound to follow. Apparently the same idea prevails in the consuming centres abroad, for, although there has been an extensive inquiry, a large proportion of it has not resulted in business, and seems to have been made with the object of testing prices on the new basis of cheaper cotton.

Yarn.—Only a moderate business has been done, and operations of any magnitude have been few, particularly in American spinnings, for which prices remain very irregular. A fairly steady, if not large, trade goes through in Egyptian counts, and prices are firm. Shipments of yarn last month amounted to 15,000,000 lb., compared with 18,029,000 lb. in May and 10,029,000 in June of last year.

Cloth.—Conditions in this section appear to be a little better. Inquiry has been on a considerable scale, and more business has been done than in recent weeks. Offers for shirtings for both India and China have been more numerous than for some time back. Egypt also has shown a little activity. Shipments of cloth last month amounted to 346,762,000 sq. yds., as compared with 394,513,000 sq. yds. in May and 300,669,000 in June of last year.

Raw Cotton.—In the early days of the week prices showed a hardening tendency, culminating in a rise in American "spot" of 47 points on Thursday. Yesterday, however, a drop of 31 points occurred. Reports from America this week regarding the growing crop have not been quite so favourable, although there is nothing of a particularly disturbing nature. Reports from Egypt continue to be good. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows :—American Fully Middling, 16.95; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 23.25.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Construction of a Metallic Bridge over the Mahmoudieh Canal at Karmous.—The Municipality of Alexandria invites tenders for the construction of a metallic bridge over the Mahmoudieh Canal at Karmous. September 23. (D.O.T.)

Turkey.

Safes.—The Direction de l'Intendance des Postes et Telegraphes, Constantinople, invite tenders to be presented not later than September 23 next, for the supply of fifty safes. (D.O.T.)

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

FOUNDED 1863.

Capital - £10,000,000. Paid-up - £5,000,000. Reserve - £1,250,000.

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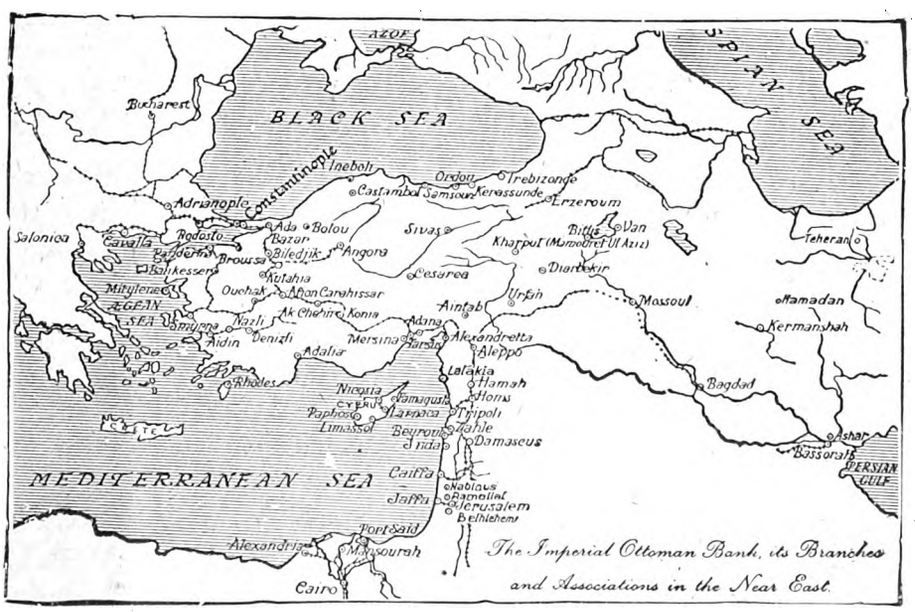

Exchange Merchandise and Insurance Operations effected.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

Paris Office: 7, Rue MEYERBEER (9e).

MANCHESTER: 56-60, Cross Street.

CONSTANTINOPLE: Galata—Stamboul—Pera.

MARSEILLES: 41-43, Rue Grignan.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Fairly Steady.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended July 3, state :—

During the past week the futures market has been fairly steady. The net changes on the week are :—Sakellarides, 1.30 dols. down for July, 0.78 dols. down for November, 0.75 dols. down for January; Ashmouni, 1.17 dols. down for August, 1.38 dols. down for October, 1.18 dols. down for December. On the 2nd inst. the American Bureau report was published, showing a condition at June 25 of 71.20, against 69.90 last year; the publication of this report produced a drop of 100 points in New York, and the drop in our market to-day is the direct result of this decline. The relative strength of Sakel new crops has been remarkable. November shows a loss of only 78 points, against 138 for Ashmouni October, so that the difference between these two months has now widened to 768 points, and looks like going wider. There is very little interest in old crops. Yesterday was the first tender day of July; no dockets were issued, and with the present premiums which tenderable grades are obtaining on the spot, tenders against contracts are not likely, and it would not be at all surprising to see July go out without any dockets being issued. Business continues to be poor. With trade conditions not improving and crop prospects favourable, spinners are not buying, and only offers at very low prices have any chance of acceptance. The consumption figures of cotton in the U.S.A. for the month of May are 414,000 bales, against 480,000 bales the previous month and 621,000 bales during May last year. The total August 1, 1923, to May 31 is 4,975,000, against 5,660,000 bales the previous season.

Spot.—Sales this week amount to about 4,200 bales, of which we estimate 3,600 bales Sakel and 600 bales Uppers. Practically all the good style cotton in both varieties has now been taken off the market, and what little remains for sale is very strongly held, and fancy prices must be paid to obtain it.

Sakellaridis.—The demand during the week has ranged from Good Fair to Fully Good Fair/Good, and the price of spot as compared with contracts has again stiffened considerably for these grades. A small business has also been done in Good at fairly high premiums.

Uppers.—There has been rather more demand for the lower grades, and the bulk of the business transacted has been in cotton below Fully Good Fair, and prices of spot as against contracts for these grades show a slight increase.

Crop 1924.—Crop news is good, and with a continuance of the present good conditions we shall be receiving the new Uppers cotton within the next 5-6 weeks. A good deal of leaf worm is reported from various districts of the Delta, but energetic measures against this pest are being taken, and we do not anticipate much damage. The discharge from the Assouan reservoir has been increased, and it is now almost equal to the discharge at the same time last year.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

A Quiet Week.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 9 :—

Egyptian Spot.—We have again experienced rather a quiet week in this department. During the earlier days the declining tendency of the markets evidently caused a fair amount of business to be withheld; however, with more stability in evidence during the past two days, consumers have shown a greater disposition to cover their more pressing requirements, and the inquiry has assumed more promising proportions. Increasing evidence has been forthcoming that in many quarters the standard Sakel qualities F.G.F. to Good are urgently required, and all indications are that both the stock here and in Alexandria will be completely swept of these during the next four weeks. The alternative will have to be found amongst the lower graded qualities or in the Sudan varieties, both of which are offered in fair quantities, and in many cases at quite an attractive basis. In one or two instances holders have made material concessions in basis to get out of their stocks in the premium month. Whenever the cotton has graded within the tenderable range they have experienced little difficulty in finding ready purchasers. The above remarks refer solely to Sakel cotton, the coarser Egyptian qualities being neglected in the inquiry throughout the week. Business in both Sudan and Tokar Sakel has been restricted, and the basis still runs in the buyers' favour. White Sudans have been rarely mentioned. Spot sales, 1,200 Egyptians and 100 Sudans. Quotations are unchanged on the week, with the exception of Fair in all qualities, which is reduced 50 points. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis to-day 23.35d.

The quantity of gold extracted from the mines in India during April amounted to 36,269 oz., valued at Rs.22,29,921.

The directors of Westminster Bank, Ltd., have declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year ended June 30 on the £20 shares, and the maximum dividend of 6¼ per cent. on the £1 shares for the same period. The dividends, 10s. per share and 1s. 3d. per share respectively (both less income-tax) will be payable on August 1.

LUMSDEN & GREENE,
Trading and Forwarding Agents,
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From whom all information as to Freight Rates, etc., may be obtained :
HILL, SELBY & WOODCOCK, Ltd.
5, PHILPOT LANE, LONDON, E.C.

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Company Meetings.

P. AND O. BANKING CORPORATION.

Current Year's Outlook.

Viscount Inchcape, Chairman of the P. and O. Banking Corporation, Ltd., presided on July 11 at the bank's fourth annual meeting. The reports and accounts were taken as read.

His lordship said that he did not propose on that hot afternoon, when, no doubt, many of them were anxious to get off and go to Lord's, to inflict upon them a long oration. The results for the past year had not been achieved without strenuous efforts on the part of the management, both at home and abroad, to whom they were greatly indebted for having realised the surplus which the board were able to show on the year's operations. This was sufficient to enable them to pay the same dividend as last year, place £20,000 to reserve, and to carry forward about £2,000 more than they had brought in. They were going slowly; they were showing no disposition to push their business. It was coming to them by degrees. They were gradually building up their reserves without distributing too much in the way of dividends, which he was sure they, the shareholders, would agree with him was the right policy to adopt. If they fell on bad times he would, so far as he was concerned, have no hesitation in recommending a lower dividend. He trusted, however, that would not be necessary.

As regarded the outlook for the current year, it was, he continued, too early to make any forecast; only three months had gone, and much would depend on the working of the nine months ahead of them. But he would ask them not to reckon on a larger distribution; it was the board's object to build up their reserves.

Turning to the figures for 1923-24, they would observe that the total of the balance-sheet showed a contraction on the figures of 1922-23. That was a feature common to most banking institutions. Current and deposit accounts stood at £9,491,000, against £10,360,000; their loans payable had contracted by £1,300,000, and there was a small decline in their acceptances. On the other hand, they had taken a larger part in the financing of the trade to and from the East, as would be observed from the increase of over £2,000,000 in the bank's holdings of bills. Their advances to their customers had expanded from £2,850,000 to £3,832,000; while they had simultaneously decreased their holdings of investments.

He would like to add a word or two about their affiliated institution, the Allahabad Bank. After making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts out of the year's profits, the bank had paid its usual dividend and bonus of 18 per cent. It had also added materially to its reserves by appropriating thereto from the current year's profits the sum of Rs. 300,000, and at the same time increasing slightly its carry-forward, and it had also found it possible to transfer to the reserve fund the sum of Rs. 600,000 hitherto held in a contingency fund, as this was not now required for the purpose for which it had been created. Its total reserves now stood at Rs. 44½ lakhs, with a paid-up capital of Rs. 35½ lakhs. He thought they would agree that that was not an unsatisfactory position.

He noticed that a great trade boom in the near future was prophesied in some quarters. He hoped the prophecy might come true. It was badly wanted. If they could only get Europe working again, not only the P. and O. Bank but also the P. and O. Company would benefit, as would every other commercial undertaking in the country. He concluded by moving :—"That the directors' report and statement of accounts for the twelve months ended March 31, 1924, be and the same are hereby adopted."

Mr. F. A. Johnston seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then moved :—"That a dividend of 5½ per cent. per annum, less income-tax at 4s. 0¼d., on 259,416 shares be and the same is hereby declared payable on July 17, 1924, to the members who were on the London and Bombay registers of the corporation respectively on July 4, 1924."

The Right Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G., seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. W. O. Grazebrook proposed :—"That the retiring directors, namely, the Right Hon. the Viscount Inchcape, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., Sir Montagu Cornish Turner, and Alexander Kemp Wright, Esq., C.B.E., D.L., be and the same are hereby re-elected directors of the corporation."

The Hon. Alex. Shaw seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. F. Ritchie moved :—"That Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co. be re-elected auditors of the corporation, to hold office until the next annual general meeting, and that they be paid an annual fee of £300 for the audit of the corporation's accounts."

Mr. W. Langridge seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. E. Darlington, C.I.E., then moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was seconded by Mr. F. O. Green, and was unanimously accorded, and after a brief acknowledgment by the Chairman the proceedings terminated.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA.

Lord Selborne on the Trade Position.

The annual general meeting of the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, was held on July 10 at the office of the company, 37, Gracechurch Street, E.C. The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G., G.C.M.G. (chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary (Mr. G. B. Bennett) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

Lord Selborne, in his speech in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The dividend of 5 per cent. paid a year ago is maintained, although profits show a reduction of £4,600. Amongst the liabilities, capital and reserve remain the same, but it is gratifying to be able to point to an increase in the current deposit and other accounts, which, in common with most banks, had fallen consistently from the record of 1920. The bills for collection show a trifling reduction on last year. On the other side, our cash in hand represents almost 22 per cent. of our current and deposit account, and our Treasury Bills and investments in British Government securities, mainly of short date, indicate that we are in a

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strong position to meet demands upon us when an improvement in trade definitely sets in. Other bills and loans combined show an increase of £424,000 over the same items on the previous balance-sheet, and this result arises from a considerable increase in seasonal loans, while bills discounted are lower.

In Egypt we are making headway. We are fortunate in having a local adviser in Mr. Ismalun, who takes an active interest in enlarging our business circle. It would not be fitting that I should appear to offer advice to the Egyptian Government, but I may express the earnest hope that they will hesitate before altering an economic system which has stood the rude test of the past ten years. The absence of serious exchange problems is a boon which few countries have enjoyed during that period, and a stable currency is an inestimable benefit to trade. Business in Morocco, as in the period which I reviewed when addressing you last year, suffered greatly from the instability of the franc. I fear that imports into Morocco from Britain are unlikely to reach their former volume until the value of the franc improves and becomes stabilised.

At both our last two general meetings each year I have been very cautious not to prophesy an improvement of trade in West Africa, and to point out that the causes of depression were not local but world wide, and my caution has been justified. For no turn of the tide has yet taken place. On the Gold Coast the cocoa crop was bought out at low prices. In Nigeria the demand, and so the price, for ground nuts and for palm oil has slightly improved, and cotton has become a regular feature of the trade. But I cannot say that merchants are buying freely or extending their stocks to meet a demand which they foresee. No, it is the old questions of the war legacy, of the unsettlement of Europe, of the open sore of reparations, of strikes and lock-outs at home, and want of confidence in the immediate future, which are holding everything back. If only we could have a rational treatment of trade disputes, if the bargain struck was strictly kept, if the Allies and Germany could come to a final settlement, then the world's trade would certainly and quickly react. We can only express our fervent hopes for the success of the European negotiations on the Dawes Report.

The local political conditions under which we are working are varied and interesting; on the West Coast a new development has taken place, the introduction of an elected element into the Legislative Councils, to which we wish every success. In Morocco perfect tranquillity prevails under the wise, strong, and sympathetic rule of that great Frenchman Marshal Lyautey. It is a matter of mutual congratulation to France, Spain, and the British Empire that the vexed question of Tangier has been finally settled. We owe a great debt of gratitude to that accomplished diplomat Sir Malcolm Robertson. In Egypt there has been a great change. Egypt is now ruled only by Egyptians. There are, as we all know, some points of importance still unsettled between Egypt and the British Empire, but let us remember the experience of the past. When Egyptians ruled Egypt before the days of British intervention and Lord Cromer, I never heard that the Egyptian rulers of the country were ever anything but friendly and sympathetic to all legitimate business enterprises, whether conducted by natives or by foreigners. Banks have no concern with politics, and we look forward with confidence to the same just treatment.

The motion was carried unanimously.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.

The report of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the year ended March 31, 1924, states that the gross receipts were £339,475, against £343,792, and the working expenses £248,323, against £259,716. The company has now received from the Egyptian Government instalments amounting to £E70,000 of the £E90,000, balance of the purchase price of the Cairo Helouan Railway. The balance carried to the net revenue account is £91,152, which with interest earned £6,483 and £61,599 brought in gives a total of £159,234. After providing for the interest on debentures and for all fixed charges, and making provision for the proportion of profits due to the Egyptian Government, £112,777 remains. The board recommends a dividend of 4 per cent. on the preference shares for the year, carrying forward £71,146. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., July 25, noon.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The production by the British Burmah Company and the Rangoon Oil Company in June amounted to 62,680 barrels.

The annual general meeting of the East Indian Railway Co. will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel on July 23, at 12.30 p.m.

The Roumanian Cabinet has decided upon a 25 per cent. increase in the existing railway rates, which are at present the lowest in Europe.

The progress reports of Phœnix Oil and allied companies for June show the total crude oil production for the month was 14,265 tons, and the throughput of the refineries 12,310 tons.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	257-260
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	368-375
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	23.80
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 3/32-1.5⅛
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	94½
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	960
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	355,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 3/32-1.5⅛
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	855-865
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.38½-4.38¾
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	83
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	148
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	100¾
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	600
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	310-313,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	—	22.80

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SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following extracts are taken from the monthly report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government, dated June 20 :—

Gum.

The exports during May were as follows, the value being given in parentheses : Via Port Sudan, 13 tons bleached (£E957), 1,966 tons hashab (£E88,029), 439 tons talh (£E10,734), via Halfa 11 tons talh (£E269).

Darfur Province.—April : 21 kantars of gum were brought into El Fasher market during the month.

Kordofan Province.—22,021 kantars of gum were sold in El Obeid market during May as against 24,889 kantars during the same month last year. The average price was £E1.053 m/ms. per kantar. The arrivals at El Obeid from Nahud were 8,208 kantars, as against 10,029 kantars during the same month last year. The amount sold at Nahud during the month was 13,787 kantars, as against 8,306 kantars during the same month last year, the average price being £E0.898 m/ms. the kantar. 3,268 kantars were sold at Um Ruaba at an average price of £E1.054 m/ms. the kantar, as against 3,425 kantars during the same month last year. At Rahad 527 kantars were sold at an average price of £E1.041 m/ms. as against 778 kantars during the same month last year.

Upper Nile Province.—384 tons of gum were exported from the Province in March. 764 kantars were exported from Renk in May.

Cotton.

The following figures show the exports of ginned cotton from the Sudan during May and the total exports for five months ending May 31, 1924, compared with the same periods in 1923 :—May : 1923 26,663 kantars (£E105,361) ; 1924, 59,655 kantars (£E480,515). Five months ending May 31, 1923 : 53,983 kantars (£E203,879) ; 1924, 124,152 kantars (£E981,100). There is no doubt that the total value of the cotton exported will exceed £E1,000,000 by the end of the season.

Red Sea Province.—Tokar : There has been a steady increase in the price of first-class cotton, which has ranged from P.T. 874 to P.T. 908 per kantar of 315 rottles and averaged over P.T. 894. Towards the end of the month the price gradually fell to P.T. 855. The price of second-class cotton ranged from P.T. 838 to P.T. 888, with an average of P.T. 858. The total value of the cotton sold during the month was £E79,625. The total crop is expected to be a little over 63,492 kantars. Port Sudan : The last of the season's crop of Khor Arbaat cotton, amounting to 144 kantars of 315 rottles (unginned), was sold by auction on May 23 at P.T. 880 per kantar. The area of approximately 1,100 feddans gave a yield of 650 kantars, or, roughly, 59 kantars per feddan. The average price was P.T. 850 per kantar, and the total value of the crop amounted to £E5,589. Work for the coming season is progressing well.

Dongola Province.—286 kantars of Sakia cotton have been brought in up to the end of May. Pumping Stations Reports.—Ghaba, April : 450 feddans are under cotton. 1,643 kantars of 315 rottles (unginned) of cotton have been received into store up to the end of April. This shows an average yield of 3.66 kantars per feddan. May : 1,690 kantars of cotton have been received up to the end of May, and there is still a small quantity of cotton to come in. The average yield up to date is 3.75 kantars per feddan. Gureir, May : The total quantity of cotton received to date is 785 kantars of 315 rottles (unginned), which represents an average yield of 2.45 kantars per feddan. Nuri, May : Cotton has been coming in well throughout the month, and a good deal still remains. The average yield per feddan reached 4.75 kantars of 315 rottles (unginned) by the end of May.

Berber Province.—Bouga : 194 kantars of 315 rottles of cotton were brought into store during the month, making a total of 2,938 kantars up to the end of May. Mikeilab, April : 230 feddans are under cotton. 79 kantars of 315 rottles of seed cotton were received during April, the total to the end of April being 759 kantars. Kitiab : 8 kantars of 315 rottles of cotton (unginned) were brought into store during the month. The final figures for the season are 2,381 kantars of pump cotton, representing a yield of 3.73 kantars per feddan and 16 kantars of sakia cotton. The burning of cotton bushes has been completed.

Kassala Province.—As the cotton season 1923-1924 is now drawing to a close it is possible to give a fairly accurate estimate of what the final crop will be. It will probably not exceed 10,793 kantars of 315 rottles, of which 7,619 kantars from Government cultivation and 3,174 kantars from shaiotes.

The Fung Province.—17 tons of cotton were exported by rail from Makwar River Siding during May.

Upper Nile Province.—420 sacks of cotton seed were distributed to cultivators throughout the province, each district receiving its quota, and 40 sacks are being held in reserve. The Shilluks have shown great keenness, whilst the Dinkas appeared to be indifferent.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Masireh for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 26).

Anchor Line.—S.s. Circassia for Bombay (Liverpool, July 22).

British India Line.—S.s. Malda for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 18) ; s.s. Naringa for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 19).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan MacVicar for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, July 31).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Christiania for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 1).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Malatian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, and Constantinople (Liverpool, July 31).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 9) ; s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 6) ; s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 13).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Naldera for Bombay (London, July 25) ; s.s. Nellore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 26).

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - - £370,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia:—
Ahwaz, Bartrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdab

Chief Office, TEHERAN.
Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

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The only British Bank or Financial House in Greece originally established in London and the Ionian Islands in 1839, subsequently incorporated by Royal Charter in 1844, and registered under the Companies Acts in 1883. The Bank now has branches and correspondents throughout Old Greece, the Ionian Islands, Macedonia, and the Islands recently rejoined to Greece; and is therefore able to offer special facilities to all British and Allied firms having business with that country.

In Egypt the Bank's principal office is at Alexandria; but it also has agencies throughout the cotton-growing districts, and specialises in all operations connected with the moving of the cotton crop.

In Turkey the Bank has a branch at Constantinople.

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Authorised Capital - - - - £600,000
Paid-up Capital - - - - £485,580
Reserve - - - - - - - £170,000

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CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
S. A. H. SITWELL, Esq.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq., Offg.

London Manager:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.

Authorised Capital - - Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - - Rs. 5.62.50.000
Reserve - - - - - - Rs. 4.45.00.000

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Branches in all Principal Towns in India.
London Branch: 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... £4,000,000 | Paid-up Capital ... £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... £4,000,000 | Reserve Fund ... £2,750,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES.

Aden, Aden, Steamer Point, Amritsar, Bombay | Calcutta, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Cochin (S. India) | Colombo, Delhi, Kandy, Karachi | Lahore, Madras, Mandalay, Newera Eliya | Rangoon, Tuticorin, Zanzibar | Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru — Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa) | Entebbe, Jinia, Kampala — Uganda

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga.

The Bank purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.

The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.

Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.

The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application.

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RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 18,103,997

The assets include securities worth £800,000, which are valued at Drs. 20,000,000; that is, at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

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Associated Bank in London:
The Commercial Bank of the Near East, Ltd., with branch at Constantinople.

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The Bank conducts every kind of Banking and Stock Exchange business, and extends special facilities to merchants and traders interested in business with Greece. It acts as Agent for many Foreign Banks. It is specially organised for Exchange transactions, the execution of mail and cable transfers throughout Greece, and for the collection of clean and documentary Drafts and Bills.

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The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

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Head Office: ATHENS.

ESTABLISHED 1893

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INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £3,900,000.

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COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
SIR ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
SIR WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, K.B.E.
THE RIGHT HON. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I.
THE RT. HON. SIR JOHN NEWELL JORDAN, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., WM. FOOT MITCHELL, Esq., M.P. [K.C.B.
LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, Esq.
JAMES MAXWELL GRANT PROPHIT, Esq.

Chief Manager—W. E. PRESTON.
Managers—J. S. BRUCE and G. MILLER.

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AMRITSAR	HAIPHONG	MANILA	SHANGHAI
BANGKOK	HAMBURG	MEDAN	SINGAPORE
BATAVIA	HANKOW	NEW YORK	SOURABAYA
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	PEKING	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PENANG	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
CANTON	IPOH	PUKET	TIENTSIN
CAWNPORE	KARACHI	RANGOON	TOKYO
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	KUALA LUMPUR		

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MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.
WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.
NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, Limited.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts and transact general business connected with the East. DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000
Reserve Liabiity of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £340,000

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors:
J. S. HASKELL, Esq. (*Chairman*).
SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
J. H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
MEYER SASSOON, Esq.
SIR PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for 1 year and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application, and Current Accounts are opened by the Bank in London and at its Branches.

F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

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Head Office: LONDON.

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No. 689—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Greek Republic.

Greece's troubles have not ceased with the establishment of a Republic. Rather have they taken on a new character, which suggests that personal antipathies are finding much more scope than when the possible displeasure of the Court exercised a restraining influence. Last week a sitting of the Chamber was enlivened by a wrestling match, unhampered by any rules, in which two ex-Ministers of Marine are reported to have rolled for fully half a minute on the dusty marble floor of the lobby, and some hours later an argument between two deputies was terminated by one felling the other senseless to the ground with a thick walking-stick. More serious perhaps in its political significance is the action of a body of military police in Salonika in entering, with two warrant officers, the offices of two local newspapers, and in the scrap that followed wounding some of the occupants. It may be that the action was prompted solely by the desire to avenge the head of the police, who was considered to have been insulted by the newspapers; but the incident will serve to remind the civilian population that it has not yet eliminated military domination from Greek politics. The scenes in the Chamber and the Salonika incident seem to have sealed the fate of M. Papanastasiou's Cabinet, which has rapidly lost ground since his successful handling of the situation at the time of the plebiscite. An adverse vote of the Chamber, leaving the Government in a minority of forty-seven, led to the resignation of Papanastasiou. The opposition was headed by M. Michalakopoulos and M. Kaphandaris; of these two politicians the former would seem to be the more likely to bring about political peace for Greece.

Yugoslav Politics.

Ministerial crises in Yugoslavia have a habit of recurring almost as regularly as quarter-day. M Pashitch, who reconstructed his Cabinet in March, resigned in April, and formed another Ministry in May, has again informed King Alexander that he cannot remain in office unless a fresh appeal is made to the country. This is the latest move in the interesting trial of strength between the King and his veteran Minister. The former has been unwilling to see the country plunged again so soon into an electoral struggle while party passions are still running high, and has tried hard to find another Minister willing and able to form a Government. After vain attempts extending over nearly two months, King Alexander was compelled to have recourse again to M Pashitch. This time his Majesty is also consulting the Opposition leaders and the President of the Skupshtina before returning an answer to M. Pashitch's request. The political uncertainty cannot fail to retard Yugoslavia's economic recovery, and such progress as the country is making is an eloquent testimony to her recuperative powers. At the same time the absence of political stability encourages the enemies of the State to further activity. M. Raditch, in Moscow, would seem to have abandoned the attitude of an impartial observer, with which he claimed to be visiting Russia, and is identifying himself more and more with the Soviet system. This development, it might be thought, would help to simplify Yugoslav politics.

Bulgarian Reparations.

The statement that the payments to be paid by Bulgaria as reparations will amount to a third of her Budget for the next thirty years has been promptly refuted by Sir Elliot Colvin, late British representative on the Inter-Allied Commission for Reparations in Bulgaria, who points out that, under the arrangement concluded last year, Bulgaria will have to pay by way of reparations during the year ending March 31, 1925, a sum amounting to less than one-fortieth of her revenues as budgeted for during the same year; and he adds that the proportion for the next ten years, even if Bulgarian revenues do not increase, will be less than one-twentyfifth. Whether the subsequent admission by the author of the original assertion that the word "reparation" was meant to cover all Bulgarian payments resulting from the War—payments under the Serbo-Bulgarian Convention, the cost of the Armies of Occupation, the service of foreign war loans, and the expenses of a volunteer army—invalidates his plea for entire remission is not stated; but it is to be hoped that the

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problem of changing into gold the leva in which the money for reparations will be collected in such a way as not to depreciate the rate of exchange will be carefully considered. It is an axiom of the Dawes Report in regard to Germany that to enable her to convert her Budget surplus into a foreign balance with which to pay reparation it must be equalled by a surplus of exports, visible and invisible, over imports, visible and invisible. A balanced Budget and a stable currency, which are interdependent things, are declared to be the first essential, and to this end a new Bank of Issue is contemplated. The position in Bulgaria may not be so serious as it is in Germany, but it is on all fours with it. The Sofia Government controlled a sufficient balance abroad to be able to make its first payments, but unless Bulgarian exports exceed imports, it will not be able to continue to buy gold without seriously affecting the rate of exchange. This question is clearly one for an expert expression of opinion from the Reparations Commission or another competent source.

The Bulgarian Amnesty.

A general political amnesty covering the members of the Cabinet that pushed Bulgaria into the War and a large number of Agrarians involved in the disturbances in September, 1922, is a wise move on the part of the Bulgarian Government, and no exception will be taken to the exclusion from its provisions of M. Radoslavoff. Not the least satisfactory feature is the special treatment accorded to General Jekoff, Commander-in-Chief during the War, who returned voluntarily to Bulgaria to stand his trial and was, nevertheless, sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. He is not only pardoned, but full rights and his army pension are restored to him. The step now taken by the Zankoff Government should go a long way to moderate political bitternesses in the country and help to consolidate all parties against the Communists. A considerable amount of attention is being called publicly these days to the Communist menace in Bulgaria. In a matter of this nature the Bulgarian Government must be credited with knowing what is the best course of action to adopt. Foreigners who know the Balkan States well will still pin their faith to the sturdy independence of the peasant majority as the best weapon against Communism, provided that justice and fair play are not withheld from that majority by the politicians. Whether it is better to proclaim aloud the machinations of the Communists and so place them on their guard or merely to wait quietly for the tortoise to put out its head and then to strike is for the Government concerned to decide.

Macedonia and the Bolshevists.

Macedonia, it has to be admitted, presents an unknown factor and a possible complication in the future of Communism in the Balkans. According to a correspondent of *The Times*, an arrangement was made on June 1 in London between M. Rakovsky, the Soviet representative, and M. Todor Alexandroff, the Macedonian leader, by which Bolshevist Russia undertook to assist the Macedonian organisation with a supply of arms and money and in other ways on condition that the latter should remain strictly neutral in the struggle of the Bulgarian Communists and Agrarians against the Zankoff Government. The suggestion at the end of the correspondent's communication that as a result of the agreement the position of the Bulgarian Government might become very dangerous seems to link up the information with other reports of the Communist menace in Bulgaria. It would have been supposed that the main danger rested with Yugoslavia, against whom the Macedonians will act, or with the Macedonians themselves, who can hardly hope to achieve any lasting success, if it came to actual war with the whole Yugoslav army.

Macedonian Aims.

The chief concern of Europe should be that no unnecessary risks should be run in regard to a serious disturbance of the peace of the Balkans. Whether the alleged agreement between the Macedonians and the Soviet Government has been made or not, whether the latter is or is not able "to deliver the goods," a policy of *laisser faire* on the part of the Allied Powers in regard to Macedonia would seem to be inviting trouble in that territory. If the Macedonians are now coquetting with the Bolshevists, it will be because they despair of meeting with justice from Europe or of finding support from any other country than Russia, not because they have any leanings towards Bolshevism. Their attitude can be very briefly expressed. The Allies in the War declared that it was their aim to bring to small nationalities the right of self-determination; the Macedonians will be neither happy nor quiet until they get it. Self-determination for them spells autonomy. Yugoslavs, Bulgarians, Greeks, all know that in similar circumstances they have done, and would continue to do, exactly what the Macedonians are doing. Would not the most statesmanlike course on the part of the three countries be to come together in order to devise a settlement of the Macedonian question which will give peace to the Balkans, and most assuredly bring nearer the day of prosperity for the whole Peninsula?

Persian Fanaticism.

A deplorable outrage is reported from Teheran, where the United States Consul, Major Imbrie, has been killed by an angry mob, and another American has been badly injured. The disturbance is said to have arisen as a result of the action of the Consul in attempting to photograph a fountain held in special reverence by the Shiah populace, and at first there seemed ground for hoping that it was a case—regrettable enough, but isolated—of sudden mob passion, to which Eastern peoples are particularly prone. An ugly feature, however, was the palpable negligence of the Teheran police and military, who failed to protect the two Americans, even if a military sabre did not deal, as is suggested, the fatal blow. The incident follows upon an anti-foreign agitation in the Persian Press, against which the Government of the Sardar Sepah appears to have taken no steps. Although mainly directed against the British, this agitation has also included Dr. Millspaugh, the American Financial Adviser, whom the Persians affect to regard as unequal to the demands of his post. Persia, having set out rather hastily on a downward path, is finding it hard to retrace her steps. There has been a noticeable relaxation of the satisfactory hold that the Sardar Sepah was exercising over the country, ever since he coquetted with the idea of a republic, and was compelled by the Ulema to go back on his own views.

Indian Grievances.

Indirectly, the grievances of the delegates of the National Convention of India are a striking tribute to the great work of the British in India. The main preoccupation of the Convention is to substitute its own Constitution—an Indian-made Constitution—for that introduced by the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms. The existing Constitution is liable to revision in 1929, but the Convention is opposed to any delay. Consequently we have the spectacle of such great patriots as Mr. Sastri and

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his fellow delegates illustrating by their actions that there is nothing of greater moment to India at present than this moving of the clock on five years. The caste and the outcaste questions, famines, education, agricultural problems, the interpretation of constitutionalism to India's ignorant millions—the hundred-and-one questions on which it would be thought that the great intellects of Indian patriots would concentrate in the short time at their disposal before revision of the Constitution is due—all these are to them of no account. In a speech which Mr. Sastri made last Friday to the guests of Sir Ali and Lady Imam he was far more exercised over the fact that a non-Indian had for four sessions represented India in the League of Nations and at the London Conference, and that missionaries charged with the spending of funds to further Christianity in India should not leave out religion in giving education to Indian children.

A One-Sided Point of View.

No one who listens to Mr. Sastri can fail to be impressed by his earnestness and outstanding ability, and it seems a pity that his unmistakable talents should be spent merely in telling the English how unworthily they have performed their task in India instead of preparing his own people for the time when the responsibility will be theirs. Sir Ali Imam, in introducing the speakers, had pointed out that the National Convention wished to steer clear of the extremists on either side, and one might have expected Mr. Sastri to take the line that, in view of Great Britain's wonderful achievements in India on behalf of the people of India during the last century, a matter of five years more or less of restricted Dominion status was not worth talking about. The other speaker, Mrs. Besant, said that far too much was made of occasional riots between Mussulmans and Hindus, of which there were comparatively few, but went on to attack the division of the sects into separate electoral units under the existing Constitution as being responsible for embittering religious animosities. Here, again, as the speaker represented these animosities as having been so seriously enhanced by British action, and the rioting arising from them as being negligible, the audience was left to infer that in the maintenance of public order the present system of Government had also deserved well of India. But as far as any admission on the part of either speaker was concerned, it might be supposed that British rule in India had been one long dismal record of failure and oppression, unrelieved by the bestowal of a single benefit upon the country or its inhabitants.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Conservatives and Nomads.

While all the parties are protesting their complete confidence in the result of the next elections, their essential happiness, and so on, they are all in reality a little afraid of the country's decision, and, of the three, the Conservatives are probably the most afraid. Fear on the part of the Liberals cannot, of course, be very considerable—it is in proportion to their hopes. But the Conservatives have latterly been showing much activity, and there are signs that Mr. Baldwin has regained the nerve that he appeared to lose after the last election. He has not only demolished the case that Mr. Lloyd George the other day made out against his administration, but he has actually invited those nomads, Mr. Winston Churchill and Captain Guest, within his fold.

This invitation is rather amusing. Everyone realises that if Mr. Churchill were to accept Mr. Baldwin's suggestion that he should publicly confess what a foolish little boy he has been in the past, and then join the great and extraordinarily happy Conservative Party, he would very soon be leading it. These terms of admittance are possibly too high for the protagonists of the Centre Party, but some sort of fusion between these two schools of negative thought is probably inevitable. The trouble with the Conservative camp is that around it are prowling all sorts of disreputable or unscrupulous characters, and that it seems doomed either to accept them at the price of honesty or remain in dull probity under Mr. Baldwin's guidance. At the moment convictions are being tested not so much from the standpoint of principles as from that of the next election—the inevitability of which, incidentally, is more loudly proclaimed as it becomes more remote.

Peeresses in the Lords.

There was hardly a paper that did not poke fun at Lord Banbury for his opposition last week to the proposal that peeresses should sit in their own right in the House of Lords. He maintained that the dignity of the Upper House was not worth sacrificing for all the efficiency in the world—a statement which all our pushing journals have pleased themselves in ridiculing.

One drearily has to assume that Lord Banbury, in spite of the fact that he is right, is standing up against the tide of the age, and will consequently be drowned. We are now witnessing a perfect orgy of letting things go to what is called their logical extremes (which means, of course, reducing things to an absurdity), and because we have already admitted the theoretical equality of the sexes there can be no disputing the right of peeresses to sit in the Lords.

Advertising Men.

A confession must be made. I last week read (Heaven help me, I did) much of what those wonderful men, the advertising men, and those still more wonderful men, those who paid tribute to the wonderfulness of the advertising men (they were mostly politicians), said at the British Empire Exhibition. This I did in search of Goethe's "mehr Licht." But a woeful melancholy assailed me, and I had to relinquish the task. The emotion of these men was simply too terrific. Not content with "doing" Great Britain in about three days, and with proclaiming that they were the greatest force of the age, they ended up in quite the approved American style in an overwhelming indulgence in sob-stuff. They applauded in affecting fashion a resolution, the pertinence of which it was difficult to discover, that there should be no more wars. As Sir Charles Higham would say in his penetrating tautologies: "This is gup. This is bosh."

These great men at Wembley unfortunately did not have time to discover a way of stopping wars. They did not even have the time to reflect that since more wars than one have been caused by the national desire, however indirectly expressed, to make money, they, the very apostles of this desire, are hardly the most suitable people to preach the necessity of content with things as they are. One could hardly deny that the most contented nations, and those who are, therefore, least prone to war, are precisely those in whom advertising and publicity men play the smallest part.

Byron and the Abbey.

The gust of enthusiasm which the centenary brought to the name of Byron has not quite died down, and a move was recently made by several

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eminent men to gain for Byron a monument in Westminster Abbey. But it was not to be. The Dean and the Chapter, in the best and most reasonable manner, put their feet down, on the ground that Byron was guilty during his lifetime of many acts that were not in strict accordance with Christian principles, and that to commemorate him in a Christian building would therefore be absurd. To the ordinary reasoner there is no getting away from the logic of the Dean's objection.

A fuss is certain to be raised over the matter. Both sides, of course, are claiming that they have the majority of British people behind them. It is probable that of those who know anything of Byron the majority would be against the Dean, but in this country verdicts of this kind are not built on the opinion of those who know. It seems a little curious, however, that those who despise ecclesiastical objections should be so keen to honour Byron in this way. One was not aware that the world thought any the less of a man because he was not buried or commemorated in the Abbey.

The Bungalow Murder.

For weeks past I have refrained from mentioning what everybody has either been reading about or has heard about—the murder that will be known to history as the Bungalow Murder. This case was the most nauseating thing one has ever met: it far exceeded any fiction. And there can be no doubt that it took hold of what is called the public imagination. This fact was not due to the sordidness of the crime, but to the motive of it and to the clever way in which it was reconstructed by the prosecution.

It has been the habit, in discussing the worse sort of these crimes, to put them down to the effects of the War, but in this case it has been proved to be due to nothing of the sort. The truth, inexplicable as it may be, appears to be that every generation has its peculiar monster, although there can have been few worse than this one of 1924.

Alter Ego.

MRS. ALEC TWEEDIE'S SKETCHES

Once again Mrs. Alec Tweedie has gustily descended upon London, loaded with her efforts of the last four years. At the Alpine Club Gallery, Conduit Street, Bond Street, are to be seen nearly four hundred products of her brush, from subjects in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. This artist —for as such she has now definitely established herself—has been practically all round the world in free indulgence of her self-taught art, and the result almost takes one's breath away.

The majority of these pictures, such as, for instance, those dealing with Japan, have not before been exhibited in London; but it is difficult to perceive from the pictures not shown in her previous exhibition, some three years ago, much else than technical improvement. Mrs. Tweedie can "knock off" the most brilliant generalisations; she seizes the topic of the moment, and has, in fact, a perfect flair for reporting; but after seeing all these pictures, whether of Greece, or the Sudan, or Syria, or Egypt, one feels that they are to painting what the best forms of journalism are to literature. Mrs. Tweedie appears to work so quickly, to be informed with such complete suddenness, that she does not always avoid the danger of plunging headlong into the superficial, although it can certainly be said in her favour that she never makes the mistake of floundering in pools out of her depth. The disadvantage of this hasty, "impressionable" method may, perhaps, be best seen in the deprived dignity of the Bacchus Temple at Baalbek, in the Temple at Karnak, and in the Cenotaph.

But there are very definite achievements in this exhibition. There is an amazing display of richness of colour—a richness that is never so lavish as to become gaudy, but is always ordered and appropriate—it is perhaps to be seen in greatest profusion in the studies of the Riviera. Of subjects taken from the Near East one would draw particular attention to "Salonika, Refugees"—a really admirable descriptive picture; to "a Bit of Old Jerusalem," to "Night Work on Sennar Dam," "Three Types of Men," and "Shilluks," and to "A Cairo Mosque." All these hundreds of drawings, however, have essentially a hodiernal interest, and many much more than that. It is too easy and obvious to admire Mrs. Alec Tweedie's power of keeping one interested, to expatiate on her versatility, and so on; one can just stand against her advancing on one, like Mr. H. G. Wells, from all directions at once; but one's reserve, it must be confessed, is a little shattered when one discovers that her uncanny cleverness is so extensive that she contrives by it to make New York look beautiful. She patently has an "eye"—or a "nose," as by those somewhat American methods of publicity which add to the success of an exhibition it ought perhaps to be called—for a good "story." All the world loves a "story": in other words, nobody will be disappointed at this exhibition.

TURKISH MILITARY MISSION.

General Nadgy Pasha, Divisional Commander of the Turkish Army, accompanied by members of the Turkish Military Mission, recently arrived in London from Constantinople. They visited the War Office, Aldershot, Bisley, Gravesend, and Military Colleges, concluding their visit on July 22, when they proceeded to Italy, Poland, and Germany.

KHARTOUM SOLDIERS' INSTITUTE.

Subscriptions to the Khartoum Soldiers' Institute should be sent to the Church of England Soldiers' and Sailors' Institute, The Church House, Westminster, S.W.1. They should be earmarked "Khartoum Soldiers' Institute."

THE UNION OF EAST AND WEST.

The Union of East and West is presenting in English some short Indian plays by Tagore at 4 o'clock this afternoon, and at the same time on July 26 in Lord Leverhulme's garden at Hampstead. The cast includes Moyna Macgill, Florence Saunders, Colette O'Neil, Gordon Bailey, Henry Oscar, and Chandra Nath. The unique art collection will be on view before and after each performance.

The Grand National Assembly of Turkey will open its session on September 23 at Angora.

M. Venizelos has arrived in Switzerland, where he will make a stay of six weeks. He will afterwards visit London.

Zaghloul Pasha has arranged to leave Alexandria for Europe to-morrow. He will be accompanied by Madame Zaghloul, Wassef Pasha Ghali, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kamel Bey Selin, his private secretary, and an Egyptian doctor.

The Aden correspondent of *The Times* writes (July 17): The Fadli Sultan, Hussein bin Ahmed, died near Aden on Sunday, June 29, at the age of 110 years. He had been an invalid for some time, and his grandson, Sultan Abdul Kader bin Ahmed, had for long acted on his behalf. The Fadli Sultan was presented to the Duke of Connaught and to the Prince of Wales in 1921, and was entitled to a personal salute of nine guns.

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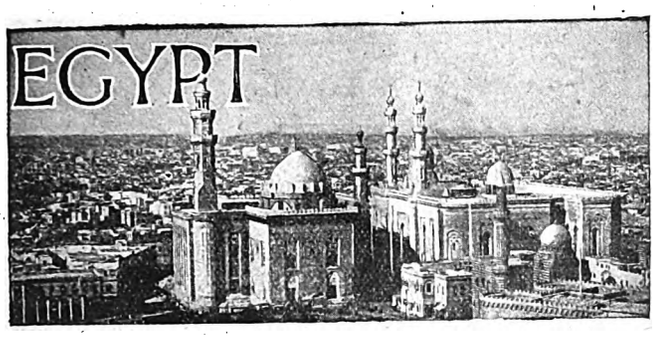
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, July 12.

The Negotiations.

There is every reason to believe that Saad Pasha Zaghloul has at last signified to the British Government his acceptance of Mr. MacDonald's invitation to go to London to discuss the Egyptian question with him. Although various statements made during the past few days would appear to throw some doubt on this fact, no attention need be paid to them, as they are merely intended for local consumption.

One thing is perfectly clear, and that is that Saad Pasha does not intend to commit himself at the outset to negotiation in the strict sense of the word. What apparently he intends to do is to go to London, accompanied possibly by Wassif Pasha Ghali, his Minister of Foreign Affairs, and discuss the whole question with Mr. MacDonald in a more or less informal manner. If he finds that a satisfactory solution is possible, these conversations will then assume a more official character, the main lines of settlement will be agreed to by the two Prime Ministers, and then, and only then, will an Official Delegation be appointed to negotiate a settlement in detail.

When one comes to consider the matter, the plan which Zaghloul Pasha proposes to follow is undoubtedly the wisest, for if official negotiations are entered upon right away, and for some regrettable reason or other no satisfactory settlement is arrived at, there must inevitably be a rupture and an atmosphere of strained relations very similar to that obtaining in 1921. On the other hand, if informal conversations fail to show the possibility of a reconciliation of the interests and claims of both sides, the parties can agree to part without the official relations between the two countries being in any way affected thereby.

Saad Pasha has definitely booked his passage for himself and Mme. Zaghloul Pasha by the steamer leaving Alexandria on the 25th instant for Marseilles. He will go to Lyons and Paris in order to consult his doctors, and then will undergo a cure either at Vichy or Mont d'Or. His meeting with Mr. MacDonald cannot therefore take place until some time in September, and the exact date has been left to the British Prime Minister to fix.

Parliament.

Parliament managed, after all, to complete its labours before the Feast of Bairam, which begins to-morrow, and early yesterday morning it was prorogued until the autumn. There was a terrific scramble at the end to complete all the formalities in connection with the various measures that had still to be passed, but all—Ministers, Under-Secretaries, members, and clerks—worked with a will, and at one time it looked as if the session would be completed at midnight. But at about 11 o'clock some keener eye detected that the Senate had not got a quorum, and, a hurried search in the corridors not producing the extra number required, urgent messengers were despatched to fetch the necessary number of senators from their homes. At last, at 12.30 a.m., all business was completed, and Zaghloul Pasha, after a short speech which was mainly devoted to thanking the members for the work they had done, read King Fuad's rescript proroguing Parliament to the autumn.

The Turkish Tribute.

One of the last most important questions dealt with by Parliament was the item of £E664,826 standing in the Budget for payment of the annual charge on account of the Turkish loans of 1855, 1891, and 1894. Prior to the War this amount had figured under the heading of "Turkish Tribute," against which, according to decrees signed by the Khedives Tewfik and Abbas Hilmy on orders from the Sublime Porte, the interest charge on these loans was paid.

The Egyptian Government maintains that when the suzerainty of Turkey disappeared in 1914 the obligation to pay the tribute went also, and it holds that, as these loans were contracted by Turkey direct with the lenders for her own benefit, Egypt is under no liability to continue the payment. Both Houses endorsed the Egyptian Government's point of view, and approved its proposals to pay the instalment due to-day, but to deposit the balance of the annuity inscribed in this year's Budget with the National Bank of Egypt, and invite the Powers in question to confer with Egypt with a view to arriving at some settlement.

It is true that the Lausanne Treaty laid down that Egypt should continue to meet the interest charges of these loans, but the Egyptian Government holds that this decision is not binding on Egypt, as she was not represented there, although she was at the time an independent State. If no satisfactory settlement can be reached with the Powers, the Egyptian Government proposes to submit the matter to the International Court of The Hague.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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GREECE.

Athens, July 11.

The Arrival of the British Fleet.

The British Mediterranean Fleet, under the command of Admiral Sir Osmond de B. Brock, arrived in Phaleron Bay on the 27th of last month, and left for Malta on July 3. Despite the fact that the Greek Navy, as a consequence of the resignations mentioned in my last letter, was left with less than one-third of its combatant officers, the official programme for the entertainment of the British officers and men was carried out without a hitch. A dinner was given by the British Ambassador and Lady Cheetham at the British Legation, and a reception was held at the Royal Palace by the Acting President of the Republic. On Monday afternoon the British officers gave an "At Home" on board H.M.S. Iron Duke, which was attended by the majority of the members of the British colony in Athens, while on the following evening a reception was held on board the Iron Duke in honour of Admiral Kounduriotis.

The Association football match between the British Fleet team and the Greek Fleet team, which took place at New Phaleron, resulted in a victory for the British by six goals to one. The Greek water-polo team, however, succeeded in beating the British team by three goals to two.

The Naval Officers' "Strike."

The Hellenic Navy continues to remain with practically no combatant officers, one hundred and fifty, including twenty Flying Corps officers, having resigned. It was at first thought that, with the exit of Captain Hajikyriakos (the ex-Minister of Marine resigned immediately after the departure of the British Fleet) the "incident" between the Ministry of Marine and the naval officers would be mutually forgotten, and that the latter would immediately withdraw their resignations and return to their ships and other duties. But, contrary to expectations, M. Papanastasiou, who has temporarily taken charge of the Ministry of Marine, adopted his predecessor's tactics and insists upon punishing the leaders of the movement. The officers point out that there are no leaders, and furthermore maintain that the act of handing in their resignation is not punishable. They state, however, that, in order to prove their willingness to bring about a reconciliation, they are prepared to undergo any punishment which the Minister would impose upon them, provided such punishment is not confined to the so-called leaders, but embraces all the resigned officers. Meanwhile the various naval services have been entirely disorganised. Some of the ships have not a single officer on board, while the naval arsenal can boast of one officer only—its C.O.!

Fall in the Cost of Living.

According to statistics compiled by the National Bank of Greece, there has been a further decline in the cost of living during May and June, 1924. Thus, whereas the index number of the cost of living in Athens was 1,343.0 during April (100 in 1914), it fell to 1,285.4 in May, and to 1,240.4 in June. It is generally believed that the fall in prices is due to the more or less steady rate of exchange.

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BULGARIA.

Sofia, July 15.

The Sobranye.

The Sobranye, which was to have been dissolved at the end of June, is still in session, but it is expected that to-morrow will be the last day. All the Deputies are anxious to leave Sofia, and it is probable that the next session will not open until the end of October.

The Bill pardoning Radoslavoff's Liberal Cabinet is at present being discussed, and the third reading is likely to pass to-day. The Socialists have opposed this amnesty, while the Agrarians have insisted that it should include members of their party now in prison. It seems, however, probable that the Bill will pass, although Radoslavoff himself, as well as one or two other Ministers, will not be pardoned. After two months' discussion, the Budget was finally approved last week, and has now become law. Other business discussed includes a law which aims at reducing the cost of living, various educational measures, and the tariff on letters and telegrams, which has been greatly increased.

The Inter-Allied Commission.

With reference to the correspondence which has appeared in the foreign and local Press concerning the future composition of the Inter-Allied Commission at Sofia, it is learned that the Conference of Ambassadors will discuss this matter during August. Without going into the various theories which have been brought forward by different persons, it is well to state that the wish of the Bulgarian Government can only be directed towards one goal, which is the total suppression of the Commission. So much publicity having been given to the points of view of the Allied countries concerned, it would seem hardly necessary to point out that the work of the Commission can only suffer by a continuance of the present situation, which is, to say the least of it, humiliating and sordid to the impartial observer. Now all that remains to be hoped for is that the competent body, which in this case is the Conference of Ambassadors, will speedily decide how the three countries concerned are to be represented in Bulgaria.

The Macedonians and Moscow.

From Yugoslavia comes a report that several prominent Macedonians, including M. Peter Shouleff, have gone to Moscow. This report must be treated with great reserve.

There are signs, nevertheless, that Macedonians of the extremer element continue to be attracted by the specious promises which M. Stephan Raditch, the Croat Leader, has held out to them. M. Raditch is still in Moscow, and it appears that the Soviet have received him with open arms. Disillusionment will surely come sooner or later, but just at the moment M. Raditch seems to be unduly influenced by Bolshevist theories and Bolshevist advice. Fortunately, saner elements amongst the Macedonians realise only too well that if they nail their standard to the Moscow mast their cause will be greatly jeopardised. It is for this reason that one or two important Macedonians, who are not directly associated with the revolutionary organisa-

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tion are contemplating a visit to the principal Allied countries in order to reassure the latter concerning any Macedonian-Croat-Bolshevist pact.

The Roumanian Minister.

M. Lango Rascano, who has been Roumanian Minister at Sofia for the last three years, has been appointed Minister to Athens. It is understood that his successor will be M. Biherelesco, who is now holding an appointment at the Roumanian Foreign Office.

Communist Activities.

A good deal of prominence has recently been given to the activities of the Bulgarian Communists and their Russian brethren, the Third International. In this connection it is reported that a barque was recently discovered on the Black Sea coast near Varna. This barque had been used to smuggle in arms and munitions from Russia and had been abandoned by its crew. As the weather is at present propitious for such operations, it may be expected that further attempts will be made to land arms.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Liubliana, July 13.

The Little Entente Conference.

The Prague Conference of the Little Entente has come to an end, and, in spite of many unfriendly prognostications, its success is beyond doubt. For the Little Entente is only an alliance with a strictly limited scope, and, therefore, its decisions cannot pursue any aim other than to safeguard the *status quo* and maintain the validity of the Peace Treaties. And in this complete unanimity was again achieved.

But unanimity was achieved in other questions also, in so far as they might bear on the Little Entente. Thus the official *communiqué* says that the Little Entente has from the first been interested that the Governments of the Great Entente should see eye to eye with each other, and points out with special satisfaction that the Powers are steadily approaching an agreement, the object of which is the final solution of the Reparations question—a question which closely touches the interests of the Little Entente, as, in these days, all efforts are concentrated on the pacification of Europe.

The Conference furthermore showed that the unity of the Little Entente was maintained in the face of all incidents, and that it is to-day on a firmer basis than ever.

The decisions of the Little Entente in regard to the recognition of Soviet Russia were awaited with special eagerness. It is well known that relations between Roumania and Russia are somewhat strained on account of the question of Bessarabia. For this reason it was rumoured that Roumania had stipulated with other States of the Little Entente that the recognition of Soviet Russia on their part should be dependent on Russia's consent to the annexation of Bessarabia. But as Yugoslavia and Czecho-Slovakia are not interested in this question, and as it, moreover, goes beyond the scope of the Little Entente, it was very doubtful whether the recognition of Russia would be discussed at any length at the Prague Conference. This view proved correct, and every member of the Little Entente was left quite at liberty to effect the recognition *de jure* of Soviet Russia or not.

The Conference came to a close on Saturday, July 12, and the official *communiqué* says that it dealt with questions on the agenda of the next Conference of the League of Nations, more especially the question of disarmament and the Treaty regarding mutual frontiers. Complete unanimity was reached in all these matters, and the new position in Europe was duly taken into account.

In an interview with the Press, Dr. Benesh stated that the Little Entente would continue to do its duty, as it had done it at the time of Karl Habsburg's *putsch* and the Hitler case, and prove itself the guardian of the peace of Central Europe. As regards Germany's entrance into the League of Nations, Dr. Benesh said that the Little Entente was, in principle, in favour of Germany's admission, but not until relations between her and France had been cleared up, as otherwise the inevitable disputes arising from them would only handicap the work of the League.

The next Conference of the Little Entente will take place at the end of the year in Bucharest.

Raditch and the Communists.

According to certain reports, Raditch and Radek, the Secretary of the Third International, have come to a complete agreement. M. Raditch is to undertake the management of the Communist propaganda centre for the Balkan States, which is located in Vienna. All Communist organisations in the Balkan States are to defer to M. Raditch's orders. A fairly extensive credit is said to have been granted by the Soviets for this purpose—a million, so it is stated, being devoted to the Yugoslav propaganda centre alone. But M. Raditch will experience some difficulty in taking over the management of his centre, as the Austrian Government has forbidden him to reside in Vienna. One consequence of M. Raditch's alliance with the Bolshevists may be noted in a slight *rapprochement* between the Governments of Belgrade and Sofia, both being prepared to stand fast against Communism. It remains to be added that it is highly improbable that M. Raditch's party will remain faithful to its leader after this last move of his. The peasant Deputies, in particular, are loud in revolt, and it is scarcely probable that at the next General Election the present number of his mandates will be maintained, let alone increased.

The Internal Situation.

The internal situation is by no means cleared up, but everything points to a General Election this autumn, and to its being conducted by a Pashitch Government. By M. Raditch's joining with Communism, the Opposition has been greatly weakened, and to-day it is not in a position to demand more than a "concentration" Government.

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But this cannot be effected without the Radicals, and as the Radicals refuse to take part in one, it is out of the question, although at the moment it would provide the best solution of this country's problems.

The Italian Frontier.

Incidents on the Italian frontier have been rife of late. In spite of their frequency, it would be well, however, not to take them too seriously. They are practically all the result of the fact that the Italo-Jugoslav frontier has not been settled in detail to this day. The reason for this is that the Commercial Treaty between Italy and Yugoslavia has not yet been concluded, and that Italy is trying to get better conditions by bargaining with frontier concessions. Meantime the negotiations concerning the Commercial Treaty are progressing satisfactorily, and it is to be hoped that before long the definite delimitation of the frontier will in its turn put an end to these unnecessary frontier incidents.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, July 16.

Tirana and Valona.

The seat of Government has been removed from Tirana to Valona. This is the natural consequence of Valona's having been the centre of the revolutionary movement. It does not mean that any decision has been arrived at with regard to the future capital of Albania.

Tirana was never more than a provisional capital. The two most civilised and largest towns in Albania are Scutari and Koritza. Both these towns, however, are situated close to the frontier, the one in the north-west, the other in the south-east, and the possession of both was contested by Albania's neighbours. Tirana, on the other hand, occupies a central position—less central, it is true, than Elbasan, on the River Skumbi, which divides Northern from Southern Albania, the Ghegs from the Tosks—but enjoying the advantages of being completely free from malaria, and of having road communication with the sea at Durazzo.

Valona is not very suitable as a capital. It is badly smitten with malaria, and it is within range of the Italian guns on the Island of Saseno. But it has undoubtedly a commercial future. It is the port of the most progressive part of Albania and close to a wide district offering exceptional agricultural prospects, if the malaria could but be checked. It possesses the only first-rate natural harbour in Albania, and it is the nearest point to the Italian coast—so that one might almost say it is destined to become one day the railhead of the quickest route, served by ferry boats from Brindisi, between Rome, Salonika, and Constantinople. The potential oil districts in Albania are, moreover, close to Valona, and the town is already comparatively well served by roads.

The Work of the Government.

The Government has decided not to reassemble the old Parliament, easy as it would be to obtain from it now a vote of confidence. There is no need, however, for such a vote. New elections will be held towards the end of the present year or at the beginning of 1925. Meanwhile, the population is to be completely disarmed without fear or favour; and until this is accomplished martial law will continue.

It is probable that the new elections will be held under a system of direct suffrage, instead of under one of electoral colleges, as the law stands at present. The new Assembly will provide a revised Constitution for the State and settle on the permanent seat of the capital.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, July 2.

The Organic Law.

A complete calm has overtaken matters political in Baghdad; there is not so much as a puff of wind—though no more, it is generally stated, is needed to cause the fall of the present Cabinet. The Constituent Assembly continues to discuss the clauses of the Organic Law, half of which has now been examined and passed. The deputies are all anxious to return home after their long absence in the capital, and it is not anticipated that the remaining half will take long to complete. Only one clause has provoked any serious controversy—namely, that which states that "No member of Parliament shall be arrested or tried during the session unless the Assembly to which he belongs shall, by a majority vote, declare that good reason exists for the accusation of such member, or unless he is taken in the act of committing a crime or misdemeanour, or immediately after the commission of the same. Every member shall have complete freedom of speech within the limits of the rules of the Assembly to which he belongs, and no legal proceedings shall be taken against him in respect of any vote given or opinion expressed or speech made by him during the deliberations of the Assembly."

The bone of contention is the last half-dozen words. Certain tribal deputies, who are sailing very close to the wind in such matters as payment of revenue, maintenance of law and order in their tribal areas, and so on, were anxious to obtain immunity from arrest during the whole of a deputy's term of office—namely, four years—and not merely during the deliberations of the Parliament. Others, including the Prime Minister, foresaw the administrative difficulties in which the Government would be plunged if the leaders of turbulent tribes obtained and took advantage of this immunity. Two heated sessions were spent in debating the proposed amendment, and the Assembly eventually decided to adopt a rendering of the clause substantially the same as that given above.

Royal Air Force Display.

A most interesting demonstration of bombing was given by the Royal Air Force at Hinaidi on the morning of June 27. The display took the form of offensive action against the village "X," which had been specially constructed for the occasion, and was supposed to be occupied by an armed and hostile tribe, who had "been ordered to disband, but had neglected to obey the instructions and had displayed a hostile attitude." Ten machines from Squadron 45 dropped bombs on the village, the very first hitting its target with such deadly precision that the whole village simply disappeared in a cloud of smoke. One after the other the aeroplanes passed overhead, dropping their bombs, four at a time, with amazing exactitude, while Squadron 1 circled round to protect them from any possible attack by air. The village having been utterly destroyed, the imaginary fugitives were further harassed by smaller and lighter machines, which swept them with machine-gun fire. Finally, seventeen armoured cars swept across the plain, spitting fire as they went. The display amply demonstrated the power and effi-

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ciency of the Royal Air Force, and greatly impressed the spectators, among whom were H.E. the High Commissioner, the Air Vice-Marshal, and the Emir Zaid, brother of H.M. King Faisal.

Indian Cyclists in Baghdad.

Five out of the six Indians who are attempting to cycle round the world—one having returned home for urgent family reasons—have left Baghdad this week. They have now to tackle the worst part of their undertaking—the crossing of the burning Syrian desert. The cyclists, who are members of the 2nd Bombay Pioneers, have already covered about five thousand miles since leaving Bombay on October 15, 1923. They were received in Baghdad by H.M. the King and by H.E. the High Commissioner, and were also the guests of the Baghdad Indian Association.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, July 8.

Cyprus and Greece.

The refusal of the Labour Government to accede to the cry for "union with Greece" is described by several papers as a bitter disappointment for the Greek community. Both Conservative and Liberal Governments have always, they say, turned a deaf ear; but great hopes were based on the Labour Government and the statements made at various times by some of its leaders. Hitherto the champions of the movement have put their faith in memorials and deputations—generally headed by the Archbishop and the ablest lawyers and politicians. That policy has been shipwrecked, and must be abandoned. The plain statement of the Duke of Devonshire about the "Cyprus question"—as some here affect to call it—followed by the declaration of the Labour Government, shows that it is necessary to inaugurate a new policy. The *Phoné tes Kyprou* (July 5) says that the reason why the British Government has refused to admit the "claims" of Greek Cypriots is that there is a want of sympathy on the part of public opinion and feeling in England; and this again is due to want of enlightenment regarding their case. It is suggested that the only method by which the desired change can be brought about is by efforts directed from the real centre of opinion in England—that is to say, London. It advocates, therefore, the establishment of some representative body, even if it should consist but of one person, resident in London. This course has indeed been advocated before, but it should no longer be delayed. If no influential person in London is able to undertake the task, Cyprus possesses citizens well qualified for it.

Government Tithe Wheat.

The Government, yielding to a widespread desire, has decided to adopt a change in the disposal of its tithe grain, and to sell some, if not all, of the wheat in smaller quantities. The Commissioner of Nicosia has been authorised to issue, at current market rates, 2,000 bushels a week to eighty bakers of the capital, on condition that bread is sold at moderate prices. The present rate is 60 piastres (6s. 8d.) the bushel. But agreements without bargaining are unthinkable, and the bakers have begun by objecting that the quality of wheat taken in kind is inferior to that sold in the market. No doubt an arrangement will be arrived at. Meanwhile, it is hoped that the Government will allow sales to others besides the favoured bakers.

The Silk Industry.

Good progress is being made in the movement for establishing a silk factory in the island. Mr. Breton, representing the London firm of Henckell Du Buisson and Co., has been making full inquiry into all local conditions, and has been receiving much assistance from Mr. Noble, who is acting Director of Agriculture (in the absence of Mr. Bevan in London). He has visited most of the areas in which sericulture is carried on. Naturally the terms on which the firm would undertake to start a manufactory require very careful determination. One essential is that a site must be found situate near a sufficient and suitable water supply. Another condition is an assured annual delivery of 50,000 to 60,000 okes (62 to 75 tons) of cocoons—about a quarter of the total island output. It would accordingly be desirable that cultivators or local silk merchants should become shareholders in the enterprise. It is calculated that an outlay of from £15,000 to £20,000 would be required for the erection of a manufactory, with its machinery and equipment. If successful, this would, of course, lead to the construction of branch factories. While most village producers would no doubt gladly take shares, not a few are unfortunately indebted to merchants, which may cause some difficulty at the outset. It seems clear in any case that the prospects of the villagers should be very much brightened should the present project materialise. And there is no question that sericulture could, under better conditions than those now existing, be very largely developed. It is much to be hoped, therefore, that the report of Mr. Breton, who should leave for England on July 17, will be a very favourable one, and that the proposed scheme will be realised.

THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONVENTION.

Sir Ali and Lady Imam held a reception at the Hotel Cecil on Friday in honour of the delegates of the Indian National Convention. In welcoming their guests, Sir Ali Imam explained the object of the Convention, which hoped to steer a middle course between extremism on either side. Mr. S. Sastri and Mrs. Annie Besant spoke on behalf of the delegates. The former testified to the amount of pro-Indian sentiment that the delegates had met with in this country, but confessed to their difficulty in mobilising it for practical purposes. He touched upon the Labour Government's dilemma in dealing with India, but held that, if it were true to its principles, it must respect the freedom and liberty of other peoples. M. Sastri then went on to enumerate Indian grievances against Great Britain in delaying the grant of full self-government. Mrs. Besant deprecated the excessive attention paid in the British Press to an occasional riot in connexion with religious festivals in India, and explained the Indian case for a Constitution drawn up by Indians.

Among those who had accepted the invitation of Sir Ali and Lady Imam were Lady Aberdeen, Sahibzada Aftab Ahmed Khan, Mr. W. H. Ayles, M.P., Lord Henry Bentinck, Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, the Dowager Lady Boyle, Lord and Lady Buckmaster, Sir Thomas Berridge, Sir Edward Cook, the Persian Minister, Commander and Mrs. Kenworthy, Major-General Sir Edward and Lady Locke Elliot, Lord and Lady Lamington, Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Mr. Oswald Mosley, M.P., and Lady Cynthia Mosley, Lord and Lady Meston, Sir Basanta and Lady Mullick, Lord and Lady Pentland, Lady Polson, Sir Dorab and Lady Tata, and Mr. Wheatley, M.P.

General Nadir Khan, lately Minister of War in Kabul, sailed from Bombay on July 20 to take up his appointment as Afghan Minister in Paris.

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Near East Bookshelf.

THE BRITISH CITIZEN'S HANDBOOK OF INDIA.

"INDIA: A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW." By the Earl of Ronaldshay. (London: Constable and Co. 18s. net.)

This book is a more ambitious effort than the author's "Lands of the Thunderbolt," recently reviewed in these columns, which was a well-written account of personal travels in Sikkim, together with chapters dealing in a "popular" manner with Buddhism and its Lamaistic developments. The object of the present work is, to quote the author's own words, "to bring together vignettes of Indian history, glimpses of Indian architecture and archæology, sketches of the social and industrial economy of her peoples, indications of the modes in which their religious thought has found expression, illustrations of their unceasing war with their environment, particularly in the matter of climate and disease."

It may fairly be said that Lord Ronaldshay fulfils his programme, and that his book is one that deserves to be read by all who desire to have some idea of the responsibilities which they have in respect to the Indian Empire as citizens of the paramount Power which governs it. It comes at a specially opportune time, when all of us hear much of India and its problems, and most of us feel that the lack of knowledge of its circumstances makes it difficult or impossible to grasp the points at issue.

It is quite frankly a popular book; in fact, it is of the nature of journalism in its best sense, of the authoritative kind which our best newspapers give us with greater frequency than was formerly the case. The writing is good and vivid, the matter well chosen, and the points of importance are well brought out. It is greatly to Lord Ronaldshay's credit that he has seen that a book of this kind is much more likely to be read by those whom he desires to reach than one on more learned or specialist lines. We are glad to gather from certain indications given by him that we may not have to wait long for a further work examining the political problems of India from the same pen. If, as we have good reason to hope, this is characterised by the same clear thinking and careful writing as we find in the work under review, it will be a valuable contribution to Imperial politics.

It is, unfortunately, not possible in the very limited space available to criticise the book in detail in the manner it deserves. We would only add that twenty-four excellently reproduced plates from photographs taken by the author add considerably to its interest in bringing ocular presentation to assist in understanding the various matters treated of.

C. S.-W.

THE HUMAN SIDE OF INDIAN LABOUR.

"LABOUR IN INDIAN INDUSTRIES." By G. M. Broughton. (Oxford University Press: Humphrey Milford. 9s. net.)

Miss Broughton's treatise can be recommended almost without reserve as the first book which should be mastered by the serious student of Indian labour problems. It is not light reading—few theses for the London doctorate in economics are that—there are lots of statistics, and the material side of the question is kept prominent throughout, but, happily for the reader, the writer has felt, as well as studied, and she deals, not with the abstractions which fill official schedules, but with the human beings who dig coal, or mind machines, or otherwise function in the ranks of organised labour. Obviously she knows these human beings at home, and her incidental remarks about the way they look at things are generally just right. The trained works manager of to-day can learn as much from Miss Broughton as the promoted foreman of yesterday, and we hope both of them will seize the opportunity. The only grumble we have is that the twentieth century is not shown in its due relations to the seventeenth and eighteenth. To give a single illustration of our meaning, the attitude of employers in Western India towards their workers is very puzzling to the ordinary observer, but it becomes understandable enough when one recognises the interaction of two definitely Indian ideas, artisan-slavery on the one hand and ultra-humanitarianism on the other, with the currents of Western thought which reached India along with machines: and it would be a great benefit to students if Miss Broughton, or someone equally well qualified, would set out clearly the old ideas and sketch the gradual movement towards the present position.

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

"A History of Music in England." By Ernest Walker, M.A., D.Mus. Second Edition. (London: Oxford University Press. 10s. 6d. net.)

"The Ocean of Story." Being C. H. Tawney's Translation of Somadeva's Katha Sarit Sagara. Now Edited with Introduction, fresh explanatory Notes, and terminal Essay by N. M. Penzer. With a foreword by Sir Richard Carnac Temple, Bart. In Ten Volumes. Vol. I. (London: Privately printed for subscribers only by Chas V. Sawyer, Ltd., Grafton House, W.1.).

"The Traveller's Handbook for Palestine and Syria." New Edition. Revised by Harry Charles Luke, B.Litt., M.A. With an Appendix by Prof. J. Garstang, M.A., B.Litt., D.Sc. (London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent, and Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Yoga as Philosophy and Religion." By Surendranath Dasgupta. (Trubner's Oriental Series.) (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner, and Co., Ltd. 10s 6d. net.)

"Designation of Human Types." (Puggala-Pannatti.) Translated into English for the first time by Bimala Charan Law, M.A., B.L. (London: Oxford University Press, for the Pali Text Society. 10s. net.)

"The Devil's River." By Leland Buxton. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Indian Emigration." By "Emigrant." India of To-day Series. Volume V. (London: Humphrey Milford. 3s. net.)

"The Religion of the Rigveda." By H. D. Griswold, M.A., Ph.D., D.D. (London: Humphrey Milford. 12s. 6d. net.)

INDIAN ART AT WEMBLEY.

Sir Arthur Hirtzel officially opened the Retrospective Exhibition of Indian Paintings at the British Empire Exhibition, and emphasised in his speech the importance of the proper appreciation of Indian art in this country as a means of understanding between the two races.

It was announced that the India Society would issue a volume, with illustrations, dealing with these Indian paintings. The selection of the illustrations is in the hands of Mr. Laurence Binyon and Professor William Rothenstein, both of whom served on the Indian Fine Arts Sub-Committee of the British Empire Exhibition. The text will be supplied by Mr. Lionel Heath.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

July 24, 1924 (New Style).
July 11, 1924 (Old Style).
Julheggia 21, 1342, A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Tamuz 22, 5684, of the Jewish Calendar.

Prince Cantacuzene has left London for Paris.

The Aga Khan left the Ritz Hotel last week for Aix-les-Bains.

Sir Henry Seymour King has left England for a cruise in the Baltic in his yacht Heartsease.

The Tikka Raja of Kapurthala arrived in London last week from Paris.

Fathollah Khan Noury, Secretary at the Persian Legation, has left London for Devonshire on a month's leave.

Prince and Princess Omar Halim and the Marquis de Villavieja have left Claridge's Hotel, London, for Paris.

The Earl of Altamont left Southampton last Thursday for India to rejoin his regiment, the Royal Scots Greys.

Mr. Charles T. Allen, C.I.E., who sailed from India in the P. and O.s. Macedonia, arrived in London on July 20.

The Crown Princess of Roumania has arrived at 50, Grosvenor Street, where she will remain during her stay in London.

Prince N. Mirza Arasteh, Counsellor at the Persian Legation, and Princess Mirza Arasteh have left London for Belgium.

Major E. W. P. Newman, Secretary to the Anglican Bishopric of Jerusalem, has returned to Jerusalem from Europe.

Mr. and Mrs. John de Lisle have left Wootton Hall, Warwickshire, for India, where their address is Narayanganj, Eastern Bengal.

The Marquess Curzon of Kedleston has returned to London from Paris. He has benefited greatly by the treatment he has received.

The Prince Regent of Ethiopia honoured Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rey with his company at dinner at the Ritz Restaurant last Friday night. His Imperial Highness was attended by his suite.

Sir R. B. Shadi Lal, Chief Justice of the Punjab, who is at present in London, occupied a seat on the bench with Mr. Justice Eve in the Chancery Division last Thursday, and was formally introduced by his Lordship to the Bar.

Mrs. Alexander van Millingen was unavoidably prevented, owing to absence abroad, from obeying their Majesties' command to attend the Court at Buckingham Palace on Friday, June 27, and to present her daughter, Miss Frances van Millingen.

Queen Olga of Greece, Princess Nicholas of Greece, the Grand Duchess Xenia, Countess Orloff Davidoff, Lady Katharine Meade, and Lady Swettenham were among those who visited M. Serg. Yourievitch's studio at 9, Regent Street, on July 15 to view his sculptures.

The Council of the Royal Society of Arts have awarded the Society's silver medals, among others, to the following authors of papers read before the society during the past session :—

Paper read at the ordinary meeting.—Mrs. Arthur McGrath (Rosita Forbes).

Papers read in the Indian section.—Brigadier-General H. A. Young and Sir Richard M. Dane.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Williams gave a luncheon on July 17 at the Ritz Hotel in honour of Major-General Sir Lee and Lady Stack. The following were present :—

Sir Cecil Budd, Mr. Bardsley, Colonel and Mrs. Follett, Mr. H. P. Hewins, Mr. and Mrs. Holland, Mr. G. C. Hutchinson, Sir Murdoch and Lady Macdonald, Mr. and Mrs. MacMichael, Said Pasha and Mme. Shoucair, Mrs. Urmston, and Sir Reginald Wingate.

A meeting of the Near and Middle East Association will be held on Wednesday, July 30, at 8.15, at 14, North Street, Westminster, by kind permission of Mrs. de Bunsen. Mr. Leland Buxton will read a paper entitled "How Peace May Be Established in the Balkans," written by M. Vladimir Popovitch, late Mayor of Cettigne, who will be present. Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen will preside.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The King has approved the appointment of the Prince of Wales as Colonel-in-Chief, 4th Prince of Wales's Own Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. D. W. Greig, M.D., D.Sc. has been appointed by the Edinburgh University Lecturer in Tropical Diseases. He graduated in medicine in 1895, and entered the Indian Medical Service four years later. He finally held the position of Director of Medical Research in India.

Major-General Sir Charles Vere Ferrars Townshend, K.C.B., D.S.O., of Brooks's Club, St. James's Street, S.W., who commanded the 6th Division during the siege of Kut-el-Amara, and who also saw service at the siege of Chitral in the Sudan and in South Africa, Independent M.P. for the Wrekin Division of Salop, 1920-22, at one time Military Attaché in Paris, who died in Paris on May 18, aged 62, son of the late Mr. Charles Thornton Townshend, and heir presumptive to the Marquess Townshend, left unsettled property valued for probate at £119.

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THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1924.

ENEMIES OF EGYPT.

The attempted assassination of Saad Pasha Zaghloul will, it is to be hoped, give pause to those Egyptians who are fond of proclaiming, or of thinking, that Britain is the only enemy of Egypt, and that, once rid of the British, the country will be free from all anxiety. As the medical student who fired at the Prime Minister had only recently arrived in Cairo from Berlin and was well primed with the political situation in Egypt, it is unlikely that he had evolved his supposed grievances from his own inner consciousness. The Egyptian Government appears to have had its attention directed to possible machinations among the Egyptian community in Berlin, and has had resort through its Consul to domiciliary visits among Egyptian residents in that city. Investigations in Egypt, it is stated, point to complicity in the movement culminating in the attempt on Zaghloul Pasha of leading members of the Nationalist Party and of the suspicious activity of certain men said to be agents of the former Khedive. That the latter has never abandoned hope of regaining the throne of Egypt is well known. He is represented in Cairo by a French agent, who occasionally visits him in Turkey, and it is at least improbable that political matters are excluded from the subjects discussed by them. But the most convincing evidence of the support behind the movement is provided by the existence of a Press organ of the Egyptian Nationalist Party, published in Austria. This paper, under the title *Die Ægyptische Fahne*, appears once a month at Innsbruck, and is distributed gratis. It aims at providing a rallying point for Egyptians in Austria, and is able to record sufficient success to justify the recent formation of branches of the Egyptian Nationalist Party at Graz and Vienna, in addition to the one at Innsbruck, where an Austrian-Egyptian Union, on the lines of the German-Egyptian Union in Berlin, has now been established. So long as Egyptian activities in these countries were directed against Great Britain there would be no reason for them to be frowned upon from Cairo. Latterly, however, denunciation of everything British has been interspersed with criticisms of the attitude of the Egyptian Government, culminating in an open attack on Saad Pasha Zaghloul.

How quickly this latter movement has developed may be judged from the fact that, whereas in the June issue of *Die Ægyptische Fahne* the only reflection on the Egyptian Government was contained in the remark that it was maintaining its usual passivity in the face of the British action in granting loans to the Sudan, and that nothing better was to be expected from "the Egyptian Lord Cromer" (*scilicet* Zaghloul Pasha), the greater part of the July issue is devoted to attacks on the Prime Minister. On the subject of the suppression of the two Opposition newspapers in Egypt, one article declares that "if Zaghloul believes that in this unheard-of way he will destroy the Opposition and intimidate the Constitutional Party he will be greatly mistaken," and continues: "His Excellency Zaghloul should bear in mind that he is neither Dictator nor Pharaoh. We should much prefer him as the latter, and would leave the excavation of his mummy to his dear English. But as the negotiations with England are about to begin, it was necessary for his personal safety to silence newspapers which are informing the people of his achievements." A second article is written by a former supporter of Zaghloul Pasha's who has become a member of the Nationalist Party, in this respect resembling the student who fired at the Prime Minister. It lays stress on the change that has come over the Prime Minister's attitude. It pours ridicule on the "absolute incompetency" of his Government, and asks why he does not resign in order to make room for a competent Government. It enumerates the promises that he has failed to make good. Yet another article declares that the third journey of Zaghloul's to London can bring only disgrace to the Egyptian people, and its result will be a betrayal of Egyptian interests. Finally, a report of a speech by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald in the House of Commons moves the editor of *Die Ægyptische Fahne* to a bitter outburst. No one, he points out, could have imagined that Zaghloul in his "negotiations" would so basely abandon the interests of his fatherland. It is seen how diseased and illogical is the whole of "Zaghloulery," which tries to reach its goal by means that it does not possess. "We merely want our freedom, but by the way of compromise it will never be obtained from the English vampires. Nevertheless, the political blockhead Zaghloul contrives again and again to deceive the people with his alluring pictures and to befool it. The Egyptian National Party has, therefore, always been a thorn in the eyes of Zaghloul, as it opposes with all the means at its disposal his plans, which often border on treason."

Internal evidence suggests that the Egyptian colonies in Austria are hardly numerous or flourishing enough to require a newspaper of their own. From the fact that this particular organ is distributed gratis, it is obvious that it is intended to serve some form of propaganda, and few people will suppose that the Egyptian cause against Great Britain is in need of the support of a paper published in Innsbruck. On the other hand, if the object of those behind *Die Ægyptische Fahne* is to intrigue against the present Administration in Egypt, it may well seem worth their while to win over to their way of thinking the Egyptian students attending German or Austrian Universities. If, moreover, these same leaders do not intend to stop short of murder in order to secure their ends, they are the more likely to find willing tools among youthful Egyptians who are removed from such steadying influences as may be found in their own country and have no correctives for the poisonous doctrines so carefully instilled into them. In the face of this state of affairs there could be no more dangerous policy for an Egyptian Government than to encourage its more extremist followers by seeming to endorse all their demands. It must know that many of those demands are impossible of realisation, and if failure to secure their fulfilment is to be the prelude to assassination, it will be better advised, by working with the British authorities, to lay stress on the aims that are capable of fulfilment, and so be able to point to something definite in the way of achievement. As things are to-day, Zaghloul Pasha has allowed the Sudan question to oust in popular interest every other item on the agenda paper of his negotiations with the British Government. Disillusioned on this point, the agitators try to persuade themselves that

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all is lost, and that the independence of Egypt is a sham. An attempt is made to kill Zaghloul Pasha, and there is no politician in the country man enough to inform the people that Egypt is moving along the path of independence as rapidly as its capacity will allow.

LABOURS OF HERCULES.

By JANUS.

More than five years have passed since I discussed under this title Sir Henry Sharp's seventh report on the progress of education in India. Mr. Richey's eighth report has now been published, and I confess that after the first reading I was tempted to substitute for Hercules the name of another hero of antiquity whose work had a knack of coming undone. Things are not just so bad as that, but, on the face of it, the record is depressing enough—a huge increase in expenditure with practically nothing to show for it, whether in numbers or in quality, more widespread worship of golden calves and other pestilent idols, no sign as yet of the Moses who will one day put the nation on the track leading to the promised land. The actual retrogression during the quinquennium was, however, due to a quite exceptional cause, which had almost ceased to operate at its close. Saints and politicians conspired to wreck the whole system, but the system stood firm, the wreckers are now quarrelling among themselves, and the only result of the episode is to confirm the current doctrine that the devil's best workmen are politicians and saints, for though the system was not wrecked, many young lives were. Passing by that episode, and ignoring all the minor matters of interest in the report, I proceed to the two outstanding topics—the lads of the town and the children of the country.

The whole education of the lads of the town is blighted by the degree, a title of no cultural significance, but of a very definite economic value, as being conventionally indispensable to all respectable employment. Mr. Richey leaves us in no doubt as to the ravages of this intolerable pest. In the colleges, he tells us that the dominance of the examination is universal, while in the schools everything that really matters is subordinated to getting into a university. The shadow of the examination is rarely lifted, private reading is scarcely known, games are for the few, and spare time is devoted to extra coaching. Now it seems to me that, when matters have come to such a pass, the only effective remedy is, first, to deprive the degree of its economic value, and then endue it with some cultural significance. Examinations should operate as a blister, not as a blight, and a combination of employers could effect the change in a very few years, but, unfortunately, the largest employers are the Governments, who cannot face the temporary unpopularity involved in such action, and so matters have gone from bad to worse. The desired result is, however, being brought nearer by the multiplication of universities, many of them short of funds, and consequently forced to compete for students by making their examinations easy. Mr. Richey tells us that standards are already being lowered, and that students are migrating in search of the most lenient examiners. That process must lead to the devaluation of the degree, which is the first step. Employers will have to look deeper, and ask where candidates were educated, and how; a demand for quality will arise; universities will have to meet it or go under; mass production of graduates will prove unprofitable; and presently the slate will be clear. I fear Mr. Richey will not accept these views just yet, for he asserts that "no one would desire to see any differences recognised in the value of the degrees conferred by different Indian universities." Why not? Is a first in Greats the same thing as a Theology Special, or as honours in Manures granted by Brissingham or Liverchester? If I could generalise like Mr. Richey I would say that every friend of India must desire the thing which he deprecates, but I have not the gift, and can only put forward my own view, which is that, after a quite short period in the wilderness, some of the new universities are likely to find a way out, and then the rest will be bound to follow. It will not be the most direct way, but it will get there at last, and from this point of view alone can I see any hope of progress in the record of the last five years.

But town lads, important as they are, are almost negligible compared with the children of the country, and in regard to rural education there is very little encouragement in the record. A game of cross-purposes is in progress. India needs a system which shall bring the best boys to the top, and at the same time equip the mass to be better peasants than their fathers, but peasant parents ignore the latter consideration altogether. Obsessed by the race-memory of centuries of misery and oppression, they want their clever boys to get out of it altogether; if they are not good enough for that, then education means nothing, and the village school is merely a convenient crèche. So we find the reformers trying to ruralise the curriculum, while the parents demand its urbanisation; they want their boys taught English first of all, and the report tells us of a case where they gave the schoolmaster a good beating because he had set their boys to work in the garden. Mr. Richey sees no remedy but compulsion, and no doubt that is the proper departmental point of view, but the question is whether it is practicable. He makes it clear, though not in these words, that the movement for compulsion, which has resulted in so much ineffective legislation, is merely the work of a few busybodies; local authorities will neither compel nor tax, and we read that the initiative must come from the Government. Education is, however, in charge of Ministers, not bureaucrats, and the former are, if anything, greater cowards than the latter. I shall believe compulsion in the villages to be practicable when I see a Minister going to the country on it and coming back with a mandate to levy the necessary taxes, or rates, or whatever the sources may be called. I have not seen this yet, and scarcely expect to see it in the next few years, so that the important question just now is what can be done to make education so popular that the peasants will agree to pay taxes on the necessary scale? In other words, the need of the moment is to educate the parents rather than the children.

Educate the parents! Can anyone suggest a more utterly hopeless slogan? Consequently, people who know India will not be greatly surprised to hear that the parents are beginning to educate themselves. To some extent, it is those terrible people the co-operators who are at work with their night schools, some of them attended by sexagenarians, who frequently pay fees for the privilege of enlightening their declining years. One society has decided to expel illiterate members after a period of grace, another has made education compulsory for its members' sons; and, though these are isolated examples, which may prove to be

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freaks, the movement is alive, and Mr. Richey feels justified in saying that "it is probable that the present quinquennium will have a considerable advance to record" in this matter of adult education. I hope his department is backing that probability for all it is worth. Economists, politicians, social reformers, all want to see India literate, and none of them can afford to wait for the next generation before a beginning is made. With a curious perversity, Mr. Gandhi has chosen the spinning-wheel in the home as the symbol of the national rebirth. India doesn't like that symbol very much. Will she choose the slate instead?

RELIGION AND DAILY LIFE IN THE EAST.

For many years past it has been the practice in Egypt, on appearance of the cotton insect, for the Ministry of Agriculture to apply to that of Wakfs (Charitable Trusts) for the issue of instructions to the Imams of the mosques in Egypt, ordering them to preach on three successive Fridays (where the true believers assemble on the day for prayers), and to exhort the hearers of the husbandmen to try to destroy the said insect. A religious tint is given to this mere duty of the husbandmen, as it is the practice in the East to blend a little of religion in every affair related to the daily life—politics, economics, society, or any other thing. The preacher, complying with the instructions thus issued to him, exhorts the hearers, in the name of the religion, to take strong and speedy steps against this destructive insect.

The following is the translation of a sermon preached on such an occasion :—

"Praised be God, who exceedingly prefers the diligent persons to the lazy ones, and He ordained labour for earning the living to be the best worship. Praised be He who facilitated the difficulties of life and rewarded the labourers. I supplicate for His pardon and testify that He is the only God, who bestowed upon us His open and hidden favours. I testify also that Mohammed is His Apostle, who instructed us to work for this world and for the next one.

"God said, 'It is a sign unto them, the dead earth; we quickened and produced thereout grain of which they eat. And we make therein gardens of palm trees and vines; and we cause the springs to gush forth in the same, that they may eat of the fruits thereof and of the labours of their hands.' (Koran, Chap. 34, vrs. 32-35).

"The noblest of God's favours to you is that He has made it easy to you to live happy and satisfied. He quickened the earth to you in order to enable you to enjoy its fruits, so that you may eat from your Master's blessings and thank Him, and He, in return, may increase His favours to those who thank Him.

"It is a natural law that every thing in the world has cause and to every disease there is a remedy. The cotton insect is the cause of the disease (plague), and its remedy is to combat and destroy it.

"Any person leaving the plague to destroy his crop and not combating the insect commits offence against himself and his own children. He brings destruction upon his own family and country. Such a person will be unsuccessful in this world and that to come.

"Know well that the husbandman who neglects to destroy this insect shall have double regret—the one on seeing the flourish of his neighbour's crop and the other on the day of meeting his Lord, who will make him to account for the loss of his crop, for neglecting the favours that He bestowed upon him and for following the idlers.

"Therefore, let nobody refrain himself from fighting and destroying this insect; and let nobody say that this is 'God's visitation,' for God created both the disease and the remedy; and He ordered us to ply and labour. The person neglecting the precautions against the plague which afflicts his crop is no doubt a transgressor. Likewise the person who carelessly leaves his cotton to be eaten up by the insect is also the transgressor. 'God helps man so long as man labours to help himself.'

"O, God's servants, preserve the means of your living and fight this injurious insect. If you take these steps you will need nobody's aid.

"God said, "Seek to attain by means of which God hath given you the future mansion, and forget not your portion in this world; but be you bounteous, as God hath been bounteous to you, and seek not to act corruptly, for God loveth not the corrupt doers.' (Koran, Chap. 28, vrs. 77 and 78).

"Prophet Mohammed said, 'The angels pray God for forgiveness on behalf of the husbandman and the planter so long as their sowing is green.'

"The person of good heart, doing his work in the best way and at the same time fearing God, will enjoy blessedness in this world as well as in that to come."

Jerusalem, June 29. J. STEPHAN.

RAS TAFFARI.

Ras Taffari Makonnen, Prince Regent of Ethiopia, concluded his visit to this country on Saturday, and left for Abyssinia. On Friday the King, when receiving his Imperial Highness in audience, expressed his intention to present to the Empress Judith the crown of the Emperor Theodore, which was captured by Lord Napier at Magdala in 1868.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Conditions in the Near East.

At the general meeting of the Imperial Ottoman Bank General Sir Herbert Lawrence referred to the adverse conditions in the Near East during the past year, and pointed out that various factors, political and economic, tended rather to aggravate the state of uneasiness which for years had paralysed business in that region. The new political order in Turkey, he pointed out, had been slow in settling down. The new Government there was faced with the arduous task of restoring a country exhausted by twelve years of continuous warfare, and of directing its adaptation to a new order. From an economic point of view, then, he added, it was not surprising that 1923 should have been marked by a stagnation even more pronounced than that of the previous year.

The Outlook in Turkey.

Sir Herbert went on to refer to the question of production, which, he pointed out, with the important transit trade of Constantinople, forms the future basis of Turkish prosperity. During 1923 the crops in Anatolia, one of the richest agricultural regions in the world, were below the average. In the regions served by railway lines the cereal harvest was moderate, while the yield was abundant in the eastern provinces where communications are lacking and the crop could not be conveyed to consuming centres. Other crops also made an unsatisfactory showing. The yield of mohair was 25,000 bales, as compared with 100,000 bales, the yield of opium was 2,000 cases, as against 5,000 cases, while the production of silk was 10 per cent. of the pre-War level. The diminution of the population has been largely responsible for these results. The transit trade of Constantinople remains on a small scale, the value of the imports for the first half of 1923 being £T38,475,000, while the figures for the exports for the same period are £T12,942,000. Sir Herbert went on to refer to the general position in those parts of the Near East with which the bank is concerned, and indicated that there were signs of improvement in Palestine, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia, and Greece.

The Position in Persia.

At the general meeting of the Imperial Bank of Persia the chairman, Sir Hugh Barnes, was able to give a satisfactory account of conditions in Persia. The present Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief, Sirdar Sepah Reza Khan, he said, appeared to have established the authority of the Government throughout Persia in a remarkable degree. He was able to announce the renewal of the bank's charter from His Majesty's Government. The bank's concession from the Persian Government is for sixty years from February, 1889, while the Royal Charter was granted by the British Government in the following September for thirty years, and was renewed in 1919 for five years, and will now cover the whole period of the concession.

Furness Withy Report.

There was a slight increase in the profits of Furness, Withy and Co., Ltd., for the year ended April 30, the figures being £572,443, as compared with £552,511. It is stated that, owing to the continued depression in the shipping industry, the profits are again derived mainly from other branches of the company's business and from dividends and investments. It is proposed to pay a bonus of 2½ per cent., making the distribution 7½ per cent. free of tax, as in the previous year, to place £200,000 to depreciation, as before, and to carry forward £216,637 as against £202,316.

The Rubber Outlook.

The rise in the price of rubber to 1s. per lb.—a price which, if my memory is correct, has not been touched for several months—has naturally had an instantaneous effect on the share market, which has ever been ready during this prolonged period of depression to respond hastily to any encouragement, however slight and however scanty its foundation. The fact is, of course, that there is very little stock on the market, for the present holders, speaking generally, are probably determined to see the thing through, so that a very small development of buying can produce quite disproportionate results. The references I have made to the rise must not be taken as meaning that I anticipate another descent in price; on the contrary, I believe that now we may look forward to a gradual rise until the commodity is in the neighbourhood of 1s. 3d. The immediate cause of the present movement is an expansion of demand, and if, as would appear to be probable, this tendency steadily develops, the effect must be obvious.

The Exhibition.

It is practically certain now that the Exhibition will be open for another year. There is no doubt whatever as to the advisability of this course, and with added attractions it should continue to be a great success. It will probably have to be considerably enlarged, as the results obtained by the exhibitors have been so uniformly good that there will be a much greater demand for space. It is also likely that there will be far more visitors from abroad, especially if the world economic conditions continue to improve.

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Near East Markets.

CROP CONDITIONS IN IRAQ.

The following particulars are taken from the Agricultural Bulletin of Iraq for the month ended June 15 :—

The period under review was characterised by relatively high day temperatures and low night temperatures. The fairly constant south winds made the air oppressive, but as the weather was associated with high humidity it was favourable to the growth of summer crops. Early in June the cold north wind set in; this change was accompanied by an appreciable fall in temperatures.

Wheat and barley harvest, which commenced early in May, has now been completed in Lower Iraq, and it is nearing completion in Upper Iraq. Cereal prices are about 50 per cent. above last year's prices, but there are no large consignments offering pending completion of assessment of crop by the Government. The export of cereals is practically at a standstill. It is expected that trade will be resumed at greatly reduced prices within the next few weeks. The exportable surplus of wheat and barley is believed to be between 50 per cent. and 60 per cent. of that of last year, but the quality of both grains is distinctly inferior owing to a widespread attack of rust. Wheat seed issued by the Department of Agriculture withstood the rust attack and has created a favourable impression amongst growers.

Heavy financial losses by more than one firm which has handled Iraq grain during the past two years have forced all exporters in grain to reconsider their antiquated methods of handling the grain prior to shipment and of financing the crop in up-country districts. Machinery is in course of erection in Basrah by a British firm to clean and grade cereals by power-driven machinery. It is highly probable that great economy in labour and an improvement in trade will follow.

There is a very keen desire amongst landowners in most of the irrigated areas to undertake flax cultivation on a large scale. Very favourable reports have been received from London on flax samples from Iraq. There are now fair prospects of a commercial agency undertaking the erection of the necessary machinery in Baghdad to handle the flax crop.

The condition of the cotton crop is good and climatic conditions have been very favourable. There is a noticeable improvement in the treatment of the crop as compared with previous years. Ridge cultivation of cotton, which was new to the Arab, is now an established custom. Thinning of the crop and intercultivation have been generally attended to. The bollworm attack is believed to be normal. Most of the area near the Hamrin Hills on the Diala River, where cotton seedlings were eaten by locusts, has been resown.

It is too early in the season to make a forecast of the date harvest. The present indications are that the Hafawi crop will be well above that of 1924, which was about 25 per cent. below normal. Khadrawi and Sayer varieties do not promise as well as the Halawis. Preliminary researches on the shedding of immature dates indicate that about 90 per cent. of the fallen dates are shed owing to physiological causes, and about 10 per cent. fall as the result of insect attack.

Good progress has been made towards concluding the terms of the land concession referred to in last month's report. It is expected that negotiations will be completed by the end of June. If this is accomplished then it is highly probable that immediate steps will be taken to form a land company with the view to ensuring a crop next season on one of the two demonstration areas, which will be allocated to the concessionaires.

The July to May exports of wheat from Iraq were 81,396 tons, and of barley 104,472 tons—total 185,868 tons, as compared with 176,021 tons for the same period in 1922-23. The total export of the 1923 crop of dates to the end of May, 1924, was 123,191 tons, valued at Rs.15,606,064, as compared with 107,803 tons, valued at Rs.13,079,498 for the corresponding season last year.

The July to May exports of wool were 6,104 tons, as compared with 1,541 tons for the same period of 1922-1923.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Iron Bars.—The Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of iron bars, different dimensions, for the workshops and trades schools of the Ministry during the school year 1924-1925. August 30.

Construction of a Metallic Bridge over the Mahmoudieh Canal at Karmous.—The Municipality of Alexandria invites tenders for the construction of a metallic bridge over the Mahmoudieh Canal at Karmous. September 23. (D.O.T.)

Turkey.

Bell Tents.—A department of the Turkish Government proposes to purchase 1,000 bell tents. (D.O.T.)

Safes.—The Direction de l'Intendance des Postes et Telegraphes, Constantinople, invites tenders to be presented not later than September 23 next, for the supply of fifty safes. (D.O.T.)

Roumania.

Cotton Waste, etc.—The General Administration of State Monopolies invites tenders for the supply and delivery of certain quantities of cotton waste, cotton mops, hemp string, cord and rope, aloes rope (Manilla), and jute cloth. August 7. (D.O.T.)

Greece.

Construction of Works at Kavalla Harbour.—Tenders are invited by the Kavalla Harbour Committee for the construction of works at Kavalla Harbour according to the specifications drawn up by the engineer, Mr. A. Ghinis. These works are estimated to cost drs. 76,000,000. The adjudication will take place on December 1, 1924, and tenders must be submitted by that date. A guarantee deposit of drs. 600,000 must be made in the Public Treasury, and this deposit will be returned to unsuccessful competitors within three days after the date of adjudication. In the event of two or more competitors tendering at the same price, lots will be drawn. (D.O.T.)

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British Consular Reports.

IV.—TURKEY (Continued from page 73).

The Government has taken some steps to encourage and assist the peasant of Anatolia by the gratuitous distribution of seed and agricultural machinery. In September, the National Assembly voted a credit of £T1,100,000 for the purchase and distribution of seed, cattle, and agricultural instruments to necessitous peasants. This credit having been exhausted in November, the National Assembly voted a further credit of £T2,000,000 for the same purpose. At the end of 1923 some 250 Fordson tractors had been sold in Turkey, mainly along the railway lines and coastal regions. Since the beginning of 1924 the Government has acquired sixty tractors from an American firm only. The Turkish authorities were also instrumental in encouraging the formation of co-operative societies with a view to intensifying production. A special credit was also voted for the payment of reparation to peasants and others for Government requisitions effected during the military operations in Anatolia. Although it has not been possible to obtain precise information as to the activities of the Agricultural Bank during the year 1923, it is known that large quantities of seed have been distributed to the peasants in Anatolia and Thrace.

Although several schemes have been submitted to the Government from time to time in connection with the reconstruction of devastated regions, little or no work of this nature has been carried out. Surface plans are being prepared at the request of the Municipalities of Broussa and Ada Bazar by the "Société Anonyme Ottomane d'Etudes et d' Enterprises Urbaines," which had already prepared surface plans for the greater portion of Constantinople and its suburbs.

Negotiations between the Smyrna authorities and foreign groups were proceeding during 1923 for replanning and rebuilding the town of Smyrna, but, with the exception of a call for tenders for a surface plan of the town, which is to serve as a basis for plans for building the town, little progress has been made in any of the districts such as Smyrna, Magnesia, Ushak, Alasheir, Panderma, Soma, Aidin, Sparta, Nazli, and Denizli, although more than one scheme has been submitted to their respective municipalities and to Government authorities.

Offers to reconstruct burnt-out areas of the town of Constantinople and the suburb of Sari-Yar have also been made to the Constantinople Municipality, but no work of reconstruction, even on a small scale, can be recorded.

Turkey has never been an industrial country. Few factories existed in pre-war days, factory industry being far less important than domestic handicraft. In districts served by railways, domestic handicraft has also declined, peasants finding it more profitable to export their raw materials and buy foreign goods brought within their reach by railway transport.

Industry and domestic handicraft have suffered considerably through military operations, terminating with the Greek débâcle and the partial destruction of Smyrna's industrial and commercial centres, as well as those in other localities of the vilayets of Aidin and Hudavindikiar (Broussa) during the Greek retreat and the Turkish advance. Lack of skilled labour, due to the exodus of the Christian element, is considerably prejudicing the remaining industries in these localities.

It is not possible at this juncture to form a correct estimate of the ravages caused by the unfortunate campaign in Anatolia. Previous to the war no statistics of Turkey's factory industry and handicraft were ever published.

Statistics were prepared in 1921 by the Government at Angora, but they only covered areas under its direct administration, which did not constitute the richer industrial centres, such as those of the vilayets of Smyrna, Hudavindikiar (Broussa), at that time in Greek occupation, as well as Constantinople, then occupied by the Allies. These statistics are interesting, however, as showing how unimportant Turkey's factory industry and domestic handicraft were in 1921 in the areas controlled by Angora's administration.

The richer industrial centres have suffered very heavily, especially those in Smyrna and neighbourhood, in the Broussa district, and in some regions situated on the Asiatic littoral of the Sea of Marmora.

By the close of 1923 the whole Anatolian railway system in Turkey passed under the administration of the Turkish Government, pending a final solution of the question of its future exploitation. For the first nine months of the year a section of about 70 kilometres from Haidar Pacha to Guebzé was under Allied military occupation, but, with the final withdrawal of the Allied forces in October, the Turkish authorities assumed control of this section also.

The *pourparlers* between the Turkish Government and the Anatolian Railway Company in regard to the future of the line have so far been inconclusive. An agreement between the Ministry of Public Works and the representatives of the company was drawn up during the month of November in virtue of which the line was handed back to the company. This agreement, however, was not ratified by the Assembly, a considerable section of which has manifested a strong desire that the line should be acquired by the Government. No decision has yet been reached, and the future exploitation of the line has still to be decided.

The total length of railways in Anatolia at the present time is the following (in kilometres):—Anatolian Railway, 1,035; Baghdad Railway, 633; Smyrna-Aidin Railway, 606; Smyrna-Cassaba et Prolongement, 677; Moudania-Broussa Railway, 42; total, 2,993. In a total area of 775,300 square kilometres, therefore, the length of railway per 100 square kilometre is 0.38 kilometre.

Whilst the western and southern districts of Asia Minor are served by these lines, large areas to the north and east and in the centre of the country are without railways, and this state of affairs, coupled with the absence of good roads, has been a permanent handicap to the agricultural development of the country and has rendered impossible any systematic effort to utilise the mineral resources of Anatolia.

The backward state of agriculture has been aggravated by lack of man-power and the absence of modern technical methods of cultivation. The construction of new lines would undoubtedly give a much-needed impetus to agriculture, but until the country is re-populated and more effective methods are employed, the railways will fail of their full effect. The "Chester" scheme, had it ever been carried out, would have endowed the areas of Anatolia at present without railways with a system fully adequate to present requirements.

After the failure of this scheme, however, the Turkish Government itself undertook the construction of the Samsoun-Sivas line and of the Angora-Sivas line. In addition, the construction of broad-gauge lines between Diarbekir-Erghené

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and Ineboli-Castamouni and of narrow-gauge lines from the Arghana copper mines to Diarbekir and thence to Resul Ain on the Baghdad Railway, have received consideration, though no definite decision has yet been reached.

In regard to the Angora-Sivas Railway, a broad-gauge track, constructed during the European War, is already in existence for a distance of 114 kilometres, and a restricted form of service on a decauville line has been maintained. It is now proposed to lay down a broad-gauge line on this track and to extend it to Sivas, and, at the same time, a certain amount of preliminary constructional work has been carried out on the Samsoun-Sivas line. It is reported that a credit of £T10,000,000 for the commencement of these two undertakings will be voted for the financial year 1924-25.

MARKETS FOR PUMPS IN THE NEAR EAST.

The countries of Eastern Europe and the Balkans do not at present offer an extensive market for pumps for domestic and farm use, although in some instances the possibilities for building up a future market are good (says an American Commerce Report). Dug wells predominate throughout these countries, and water is generally raised by more or less primitive methods, while there is little use of pumps for irrigation or for industrial purposes.

It is only in the towns, the oil fields, and certain truck farming districts where irrigation on a small individual scale is beginning to be practised that pumps are to be found in large numbers in Roumania. Only the larger Roumanian towns have municipal water systems, and in these towns the water mains rarely extend to the more distant suburbs and outlying quarters. A few chain pumps are used in the Banat and Transylvania, but the types principally employed are suction pumps placed at the surface and cylinder pumps with the cylinder below the water. No one type of power pump for farm use predominates, and small centrifugal and rotary pumps driven by gasoline engines are the most used. A small but increasing market for power pumps has developed in the truck farming districts in the neighbourhood of the larger cities, and there is a demand for power pumps discharging into overhead or other tanks in the small towns without municipal water systems. Domestic manufacture of pumps is negligible. Austrian and German pumps almost monopolised the market during the war, and have now practically regained their supremacy.

Hand pumps are used to a limited extent in Bulgaria, and the equipment for the comparatively few installations that have been made was purchased in Germany prior to the war, and some dealers still carry left-over stocks. Wells are usually dug by hand, and the water is extracted by means of buckets on long chains. The villages usually obtain their water supply from one or two wells from which the water is drawn by means of buckets and chains, and the towns by means of hand-operated lift pumps, and sometimes through terra-cotta pipes placed horizontally into the hillsides, which collect the natural flow from the hill strata and eject it into long reservoir troughs. In the larger towns hand pumps are used almost exclusively where pressure service is not available. Power pumps are practically unknown, although before the war gasoline pumps were used in a few places for irrigation purposes.

Individually owned hand pumps are not extensively used for domestic or farm use in Yugoslavia, as public pumps are found in practically every town or village, as well as in the larger centres, which do not have a water system; while in the agricultural regions farmers can easily draw their water from shallow wells, which do not require pumps, as buckets on ropes or chains suffice for the raising of water. Practically all of the smaller pumps used are operated by rods, and the use of cylinder pumps in which the cylinder is placed below the surface of the water is very limited, as there are very few deep wells. Power pumps discharging into overhead tanks are not in great demand, but the United States supplies about 30 per cent. of the demand for this type of pump. Germany is the leading source of supply for pumps of all kinds and supplies practically all the hand pumps used, although Austria and Czecho-Slovakia supply a small proportion.

Hand pumps are used in Greece for pumping water from wells of 4 to 7 metres in depth, and also for pumping water from the ground floor to the upper stories of houses in towns where the pressure of the water-supply system is not sufficiently strong. All kinds of pumps are used, but suction pumps placed at the surface are most used. Germany is the most important source of supply, while the United States generally ranks second, Great Britain third, and France, Italy, and the Netherlands also enjoy a fair amount of the trade. American windmills are used to some extent, with some competition from German manufacturers, which, however, has not developed to serious proportions. The largest proportion of motive power for deep-well farm pumps is furnished by horses and oxen, and it is unlikely that other forms of power for pumps will be used extensively until more satisfactory economic and exchange conditions prevail.

Turkey does not at present offer a large market for pumps, but unquestionably a large potential market exists. Pumps are not required in the city of Constantinople, which is supplied by canalised municipal water, but in the extensive outlying residential districts the water supply is entirely derived from wells, of which 40 per cent. are equipped with hand pumps, 5 per cent. with windmills, a few with motors, and water is drawn from the balance by hand. A great many crude chain pumps of native manufacture are used for irrigation on small farms, and are made principally of wood. Most of the pumps imported since 1920 have been of German manufacture, while Great Britain has furnished about 10 per cent., and a few have been imported from the United States.

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Shipping Intelligence.

TANKER CHARTERING REVIEW.

Higher Freight Rates Expected.

Messrs. John I. Jacobs and Co., of London, in their half-yearly report on oil-tanker chartering, state :—

Since the issue of our last report the tank steamer market has seen rates at a level not attained since the boom of 1920, but the peak rate of 52s. 6d. for clean tonnage from the Gulf to U.K. Continent which was reached in February and March did not last for long, as a decline in rates set in very quickly, which, towards the end of May and June, was very marked. The main factor contributing to the rise was activity on the part of European buyers to cover their summer requirements when a temporary rise in f.o.b. prices occurred in America; this rise was soon off-set by uncommonly bad weather on the Eastern Sea Board of the United States, which made gasoline prices particularly drop week by week, when normally they should have been advancing. This factor, combined with a marked decline in the amount of crude oil shipped from California to Eastern U.S. Sea Board, as well as the political uncertainty and exchange fluctuations in Europe, caused the temporary demand for tankers to diminish very rapidly.

A continued expansion in the world demand for crude petroleum and its products has again to be recorded; the total world production again shows an increase, in spite of further declines in many well-known fields, especially those of Mexico. It is considered that Venezuela will in the near future become one of the most valuable producing countries of the world, and a number of special shallow draught tank steamers are being built in readiness for the transportation of large quantities of crude oil over Maracaibo Bar. The United States herself easily dominates the whole oil situation on account of her enormous consumption, which is now considered to reach about 2,000,000 barrels per day, and will increase year by year.

Bunker oil prices have recently been reduced in the U.K. by 5s. per ton to 82s. 6d., but this reduction will hardly prove sufficient to tempt owners of steamers in the tramp trade who have converted back to coal to return to oil, and it seems likely that prices will have to be further reduced in the near future. Nevertheless, the proportion of new steamers fitted for burning oil continues to increase. The amount of tonnage fitted with internal combustion engines continues to increase, and is now equal to about 45 per cent. of tonnage actually building, whilst in Germany the percentage reaches nearly 60 per cent. on account of the large motor tankers being built in that country for American account.

The higher rates which tankers commanded during the period above mentioned caused a considerable increase in the number of orders placed with builders for new tonnage, which in nearly every case is to be Diesel-driven. Prices for new boats of about 9/10,000 tons remain on the basis of £12 per ton d.w. for reciprocating and £15 to £16 for Diesel engines. Second-hand tankers can be obtained for about £3 per ton d.w.

At the end of 1923 there were on the stocks tankers aggregating 175,164 tons gross, of which some 90,000 tons gross were being fitted with internal combustion machinery; most of the boats being so fitted were of large size. The returns for the quarter ending March, 1924, show a total of 35 tankers building with a gross tonnage of 183,850, whilst the returns for the half-year ending June, 1924, show a world-wide construction of 28 tank steamers with a gross tonnage of 180,170; of these, roughly half are being built in Great Britain and Ireland. It will be noted from these figures that the tendency continues towards larger carriers as the oil trade of the world expands and depot facilities are increased. As in other trades, this commodity can be carried at a cheaper rate per ton by employing the largest possible steamers. The number of tankers of 1,000 tons gross and upwards launched during 1923 was 23, of a gross tonnage of 126,181.

During the period under review representative rates of freight have been as follows :—

Time Charter.—There has been considerable activity, and rates have varied from 6s. earlier in the year to 9s. 10½d. during the period of activity, and latterly clean tankers have been fixing at 8s. and dirty tankers at 7s. for about twelve months period. These rates are for steam-driven tankers, motor vessels having secured up to 11s. 6d. on the d.w. for a minimum of twelve months. No charters for long periods have to be recorded, but there are still owners willing to build on the basis of obtaining a 10-year charter for a Diesel boat at about 7s. 3d.

Northern States of America.—Rates from New York or Philadelphia are still based on a parity which is not commensurate with the difference of the length of voyage as compared with a Transatlantic trip from the Gulf of Mexico. In the majority of cases the rate is based on the Gulf with an option for charterers from Northern States, and this is usually fixed at from 5s. to 7s. 6d. less, whereas the true parity should be considerably greater. Marseilles took a considerable amount of tonnage at rates which varied from 31s. 6d. to 45s. paid in February and March, whilst North Spain paid as high as 38s., with the option of South Spain at 5s. extra. Earlier in the year black oil tankers were fixed at 23s. 6d., as against 25s. for clean boats; the highest rates recorded are 47s. 6d. for a handy lubricating oil boat and 42s. 6d. for a large boat; also for lubricating oil. Current rates can be taken at about 22s. 6d. for white oil tonnage and 20s. for black oil. A fixture has to be recorded for white oil from Northern States to Gothenburg at 47s. 6d.

Gulf of Mexico.—The business done from these ports has, as usual, been much greater than that from the Northern States. White oil boats have throughout the period under review attained considerably higher rates than those carrying fuel and/or crude oil. In January the rate was as low as 22s. 6d. Gulf/U.K. Continent, but by the end of February it had risen to 52s. 6d., on which basis it remained throughout March, but from April onwards it declined, and tonnage can now be obtained for black oil to this side at 24s. 6d., or white oil at about 30s. White oil tonnage was fixed to Copenhagen at 52s. 6d., and to Finland 55s., whilst from the Gulf to Mediterranean representative fixtures were 45s. to West Coast Italy and 56s. 6d. to Cette and/or Arzew.

Russia.—The amount of oil moved by tank steamer from the Russian ports continues to increase, the main commodities shipped being lubricating oil and kerosene from Batoum and motor spirit from Novorossisk. The rate for lubricating oil earlier in the year to U.K. Continent was 21s. 6d., and the highest figure paid 45s., whilst to-day's rate is in the neighbourhood of 25s. Clean boats have commanded from 36s. to 47s. 6d. at the end of February, but tonnage is now plentiful at about 25s.

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Roumania.—So far as export trade is concerned, there is not very much movement. Two small tankers have been fixed during the period under review—one at 26s. and the other at 36s. for U.K. Continent.

Tank steamer owners do not expect the present depression in freight rates to continue longer than the summer months, and expect a reasonable rise in freights in the early autumn. The owner of the handy tanker is finding difficulty in making a voyage pay at the rates now ruling.

WINTER CRUISES.

Early in the New Year the well-known Canadian Pacific liners the Empress of France and the Empress of Scotland will leave Southampton on a voyage around the world and a Mediterranean cruise respectively. Both vessels are oil-burners, and are sumptuously fitted. The world cruise, which will occupy some 137 days, embraces visits to countries affording the greatest amount of interest to the traveller; many places off the beaten track will be included, while lengthy stays will be made at Egypt, the Holy Land, India, and Ceylon, etc. On her way home the Empress of France will make a daylight trip through the Panama Canal. The Mediterranean cruise by the Empress of Scotland will occupy fifty-seven days, and includes visits to Northern Africa, Athens, Constantinople, Syria, the Holy Land, Egypt, Italy, the Riviera, etc.

The British Commercial Secretary at Constantinople reports that the tobacco crop in 1923 amounted to approximately 20 million kilogs., as compared with a pre-war output of between 35 and 40 million kilogs. The principal centres of production are the Samsoun-Trebizond region, the Smyrna region, and the Ismidt-Broussa-Balihissar region.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Masireh for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 26).

Anchor Line.—S.s. Olympia for Bombay (Liverpool, August 6).

British India Line.—S.s. Turkistan for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 2); s.s. Mulbera for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 8).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan MacVicar for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, July 31).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Christiania for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 1).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Malatian for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, and Constantinople (Liverpool, July 31).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina; Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 9); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 6); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 13).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Naldera for Bombay (London, July 25); s.s. Nellore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 26).

Prince Line.—S.s. Scottish Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, August 2).

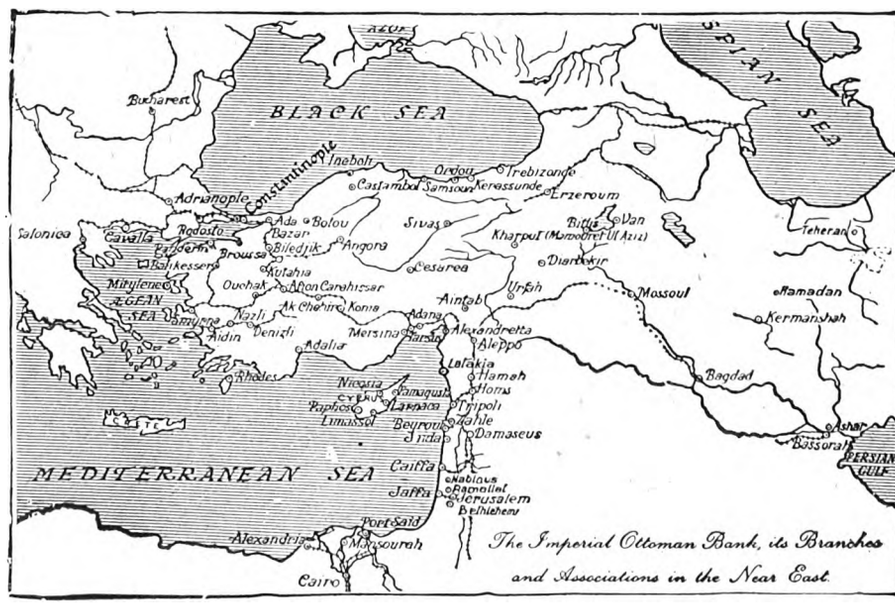
IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

FOUNDED 1863.

Capital - £10,000,000. Paid-up - £5,000,000. Reserve - £1,250,000.

Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers Issued.

Letters of Credit Granted.



Exchange Merchandise and Insurance Operations effected.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

Paris Office: 7, Rue MEYERBEER (9e).

MANCHESTER: 56-60, Cross Street.

CONSTANTINOPLE: Galata—Stamboul—Pera.

MARSEILLES: 41-43, Rue Grignan.

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Company Meetings.

IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

Conditions in Persia.

Sir Hugh Barnes's Speech.

The thirty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the members of the Imperial Bank of Persia was held on July 16 at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C. Sir Hugh S. Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., the chairman, presided.

The Manager and Secretary (Mr. Sydney Rogers) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—At the general meeting in December last I explained the reasons why we had decided to close our financial year in future on March 20 instead of September 20. Our meeting to-day is the first under the new arrangement, so the accounts presented to you are for six months only—viz., from September 21 to March 20.

Before I refer to them I think you will wish me to place on record our sense of the loss we have sustained through the sudden death last December of our colleague Mr. H. E. R. Hunter. Mr. Hunter was a banker of wide experience in the East. He had been for many years manager of the Shanghai branch of that great institution, the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. He was also a director of Hambros Bank, and, when he joined us early in 1916, shortly after the death of your former chairman, Sir Thomas Jackson, we believed, and the event proved, that we had obtained a very valuable addition to the board.

His death came as a very great shock to us all. We feel we have lost not only a colleague, on whose advice we could confidently rely, but also a very charming friend and companion whose cheery presence at our weekly meetings is greatly missed. You will, I am sure, unite with us in expressing our sorrow that he has been taken from us, and our sympathy with his relatives.

As regards affairs in Persia, so short a time has elapsed since I last addressed you on the subject that there is not much to relate. His Majesty the Shah is still on tour in Europe, and, though there have been several changes in the Cabinet in Teheran, the Sirdar Sepah Reza Khan, of whose achievements in regard to the improvement of the army and the maintenance of order I gave you some account in December, has succeeded in maintaining his position as Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief. He appears to have established the authority of the Government throughout Persia in a remarkable degree. There have, it is true, been some disturbances among the tribesmen in Luristan, but I understand these have now been satisfactorily composed.

You have no doubt seen in the newspapers that at one time in the early spring there arose in Teheran a considerable agitation in favour of the establishment of a Republic in Persia. The movement evidently lacked popular support, since, for the time at any rate, it seems to have died down. In the circumstances it is not surprising that such a proposal should have been put forward and should have captured the imagination of many people. The widespread unrest in the East which followed the War has led already to the downfall of the Sultan of Turkey and to the disorder in the Chinese Empire, and it would have been strange if the ferment had failed to penetrate into Persia. But the Persians, fortunately, are a cautious and conservative people, proud of their country's great past, and I am inclined to think their ancient institutions are likely to display much more stability than they are commonly supposed to possess.

At any rate, the examples presented in Russia and elsewhere are hardly calculated to encourage in others a desire for violent constitutional changes. Meanwhile, despite such unrest as exists, the Persian merchant, who understands little of politics and probably cares less, pursues his lawful occasions in business unperturbed, and it is to his class we look to take advantage of the facilities which the bank offers for carrying on and financing the local and foreign trade of the country.

With this brief introduction I turn to the accounts. I do not propose to compare in detail the results of the past half-year with those of the previous twelve months. The only items in the balance-sheet to which I need direct attention are the increase of nearly £130,000 in our note circulation, and, on the assets side of the account, the large sum shown under the head of cash in hand, at bankers, and money at call. In proportion to other items this may seem unduly large, but it is a good fault, and, if you add to it our investments—which are all in first-class securities—and the total under bills receivable, you will see that our financial position is very strong and liquid.

As regards the profit and loss account, including the balance brought forward, the total sum at our disposal, £87,738, enables us to transfer £20,000 to our reserve account—which now stands at the substantial figure of £390,000—to write £5,000 off bank premises, to pay you a dividend of 5s. a share, free of tax, and to carry forward £34,552. You will, I hope, regard this as very satisfactory. Our bank premises now stand in our books at only £51,100, notwithstanding the fresh expenditure which our expansion has called for.

The only remark I would make about the dividend is that you must not suppose that the payment now of 5s., as against the 3s. paid this time last year, foreshadows any increase in the 9s. which we have paid you annually for the last two years. The present dividend is a final one. Next December's dividend will only be an interim dividend. We cannot, of course, predict what it will be, but we hope it will be sufficient to prevent your losing anything in the current twelve months owing to the change in our financial year.

It will interest you to know that in recent correspondence which has taken place between His Majesty's Treasury and the bank, we have been informed that our Royal Charter will be renewed for the period necessary to carry us on to the expiration of our concession—that is to say, for nearly another twenty-five years. The bank's concession from the Persian Government is for sixty years from February, 1889. The Royal Charter granted by the British Government in the following September was for thirty years. In 1919 the charter was renewed for five years, and it will now be extended further so as to cover the whole period of the concession.

We have just received the figures of Persian foreign trade for the year ended last March. Imports amounted to Ts.69,400,000 and exports to Ts.76,700,000, a total of Ts.146,100,000, an increase over last year's figures of Ts.11,000,000.

In conclusion, I may add that our relations with the Persian Government continue to be very satisfactory. We fully recognise our responsibilities as the State bank, and have given, and are always prepared to give, to the Persian Government all the assistance in our power.

I have only to add that during the past six months we have received very valuable assistance from our staff, who have done their work in a most excellent way, as usual. I have now to move: "That the report presented be adopted, that the accounts to March 20, as rendered, be accepted, and that the final dividend of 5s. per share, payable free of income-tax on July 17, be, and is, hereby confirmed."

Mr. E. A. Chettle seconded the resolution and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next proposed the re-election of the retiring directors, Mr. V. A. Cæsar Hawkins and Mr. E. A. Chettle.

This resolution was seconded by Col. Sir A. Henry McMahon, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., and unanimously approved.

On the proposition of Mr. Turton, seconded by Lieut.-Col. G. K. C. Westropp, the auditors, Messrs. Kemp, Chatteris, Nichols, Sendell and Co., were unanimously reappointed.

Mr. Vere H. Smith moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, the directors, and the staff at home and abroad, which was seconded by Col. Westropp and was unanimously accorded, and after a brief acknowledgment by the Chairman the proceedings terminated.

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IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

The annual general meeting of shareholders of the Imperial Ottoman Bank was held on July 16 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. General the Hon. Sir Herbert A. Lawrence, K.C.B., presided.

The Secretary of the London agency (Mr. Charles E. L. Corthorn) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: You will regret, as we do, that we have lost the valuable collaboration of Lord Goschen, who has been called upon to fill one of the most important posts in the Government of India. We congratulate him most heartily on the honour conferred upon him. The public service has certainly gained a devoted administrator.

The Near East in 1923 did not see the arrival of the prosperity and calm which it had been hoped that peace would bring. Various factors, political and economic, tended rather to aggravate the state of uneasiness which for years now has paralysed business in the countries with which our establishment is chiefly concerned.

In Constantinople the market has remained inactive and business has been limited to operations of little importance. The principal causes of this inactivity are the uncertainty as to the internal policy of Turkey and to the general policy of Europe; the danger to peace which arose in the early months of the year on the check to the negotiations at Lausanne; and, lastly, the destruction of capital resources in various forms, caused by 12 years of warfare and the consequent inability of the population to produce and therefore to purchase commodities. Movements in exchange have contributed to the stagnation of business.

The unfavourable factors which I have just brought to your attention had their inevitable influence on the volume of the operations and on the results of our Constantinople office, and a large number of our branches in Anatolia. However, certain regions of Asia, notably Adana, have shown an important commercial movement in which our branches have had their part.

In Palestine, Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Persia the state of stagnation which we described last year has shown an improving tendency. In Greece our business shows a very appreciable progress, which is most encouraging for the future of our branches in that country. The financial and banking operations of our western agencies pursue their normal course.

In Syria, the year 1923 has been marked by continued progress in the general organisation of the mandated territory and an improvement of the economic situation, which has had a happy reaction on public finances. Our Filiale, the Banque de Syrie et du Grand Liban, has profited thereby and has been able to maintain its previous dividend of 5 per cent. The Banque Franco-Serbe and the Bank of Roumania have equally had a satisfactory year.

Our concession in Turkey, as you know, is due to expire next year. In view of this fact we entered recently into negotiations with representatives of the Turkish Government in order to determine the basis and conditions of its renewal and prolongation. We are glad to be able to say that our delegates signed a convention to this effect on March 10 with the Government of the Turkish Republic. This agreement provides for the prolongation of our concession until March 1, 1935. It will be submitted to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey for ratification on the opening of the next session of the Assembly in October. This will permit our establishment to render to Turkey important services, which it has never withheld in the past, towards the maintenance of its credit and towards its economic development.

It is with this expectation, and in order to be prepared to meet any objection which the Turkish Government under its new Constitution may make to the word "Imperial," that we have embodied in the agenda of the present meeting notice of a resolution to empower the committee to modify the title of the bank as and when they may deem advisable.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Roumanian pre-War debtors have accepted the agreement negotiated by M. Titulesco for the settlement of their debts in Great Britain, says a Reuter message from Bucharest.

WHITELAW'S CODES

New Phrase Code. Books of Cyphers, 10 and 12 Figures. Words for Reprinting in Private Codes and Supplements.

WHITELAW'S TELEGRAPH CYPHER OFFICE

39, Lombard Street, London, E.C.

EST. 1880. PHONE, 6153 BANK.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

National Bank of Egypt.

Position at May 31, 1924, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes:—Banking Department, Liabilities: Share capital (300,000 fully-paid shares of £10 each), £E2,925,000; Reserve fund: Statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E804,375; current, deposit, and other accounts, £E13,243,060; Egyptian government. £E12,243,647; Sudan Government, £E555,267; mixed tribunals, £E1,454,226; bankers accounts, £E365,283; cheques and bills payable, £E201,166; sundry other accounts, £E526,366; total, £E33,780,890. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E21,012,630; sundry securities, £E255,621; advances on merchandise, £E840,280; advances on securities, £E1,621,874; advances otherwise secured, £E325,936; sundry other advances, £E409,698: bills of exchange, £E2,308.621; local bills discounted, £E348,988; buildings and furniture, £E272,550; money at call and at short notice, £E936,000: bankers accounts, £E3,283,447; sundry other accounts, £E135,927; Cash: notes (£E1,378,760), gold (£E26,135), silver, nickel, etc. (£E624,423), £E2,029,318; total, £E33,780,890. Issue Deparment.—Notes issued, £E31,300,000—£E31,300,000; gold, (£E3,339,576), *British Treasury bills (£E12,310,424), £E15,650,000; securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government (£E420,576), British Treasury bills and National War Bonds (£E15,229,424), £E15,650,000; total £E31,300,000. (*By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold (see "Journel Officiel" of October 30, 1916.)

Morums Oriental Stores.

The report of Morums Oriental Stores, Ltd., for the nine months to March 31, shows a loss of £31,787, after meeting all charges, as against a loss of £42,707 for the previous period of one year. The turnover increased by approximately £20,000 over the corresponding period of the previous year, while for the first three months of the current year there is a further improvement both in sales and gross profit.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97 15/32
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	259-261
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	365-370
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	23.97-24.01
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 7/32-1.5¼
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	95.75-96
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	975
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	340-370,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 7/32-1.5¼
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	850-865
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.37 5/8-4.38 1/8
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	85.35-85.80
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	147 5/8
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	101 7/16-101 9/16
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	600
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	309-312,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	—	22.55-22.80

National Insurance Companies.

"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"

(ESTABLISHED IN 1895).

"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and General Re-insurance Company "BALKAN."

Capital: Leva 5,000,000 each.

Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000.

HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Firm.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended July 10 state :—

During the past week the market has been steady at the advance. The net changes since last Thursday are : Sakellaridis 1.95 dollar up for July, 1.40 dollar up for November, 1.05 dollar up for January. Ashmouni : 0.42 dollar up for August, 0.63 dollar up for October, 0.78 dollar up for December.

There have been no new features of importance to account for the firmness of the market. American prices show a rise of about 50 points, whereas Novembers here are up 140 points and Octobers 63 points. New crop Sakel has been especially in demand. Straddlers during the early part of the week continued buying Novembers and selling October, and the difference between these positions was on Monday pushed out to nearly 900 points. The straddling has ceased, and the difference has now narrowed in to 845 points. During the last fortnight November has been largely bought by speculators as well as by straddle operators, and we think that there must be a fairly large speculative long interest in that position. There has again been very little inquiry from trade centres, and it rather looks as if consumers are prepared to stand off until the new crop starts moving, in the anticipation that the movement of the crop will induce lower prices. The week's receipts amount to 1,969 krs., against exports 65,570 krs. ; the stock stands at 516,925 krs. Spot : Total sales this week amount to about 2,700 bales, of which we estimate 2,300 bales Sakel and 400 bales Uppers; with the exception of Tuesday's session, the market has shown very little activity.

Sakellaridis : All grades have been dealt in during the week, the greater proportion of the business transacted being in Good Fair and Good Fair to Fully Good Fair, with a consequent stiffening in premiums for the latter. There is still a good demand for Fully Good Fair, but the paucity of the supply of this cotton on the market has restricted business. As compared with the past few weeks, rather less interest has been shown in the higher grades.

Uppers : The small business done has been spread over all grades from Middling Fair to Fully Good Fair to Good. A good deal of cotton below Fair still remains on the market; holders are anxious to get rid of their stocks, and this cotton can be picked up at fairly reasonable prices.

Crop 1924 : The crop news continues quite good. The leaf worm attack has passed without much damage ; the attack was fairly heavy, but energetic measures were taken, with satisfactory results : the rather high temperature also helped in this direction. The hot weather has increased the consumption of irrigation water, and although, generally speaking, the supply has been sufficient for requirements, some complaints have been heard from growers with lands at the tail ends of canals. Bolling is proceeding satisfactorily, and the present outlook is excellent.

The report of the Ministry of Agriculture for the month of June reads : Lower Egypt condition, 101 ; Middle Egypt condition, 96 ; Upper Egypt condition, 100 ; average whole Egypt, 100. Lower Egypt forecast yield, 3.57 krs. per feddan ; Middle Egypt, 3.75 krs. ; Upper Egypt, 4.88 krs. ; average whole Egypt, 3.67 krs. per feddan.

The weather has been favourable to growth, particularly in late-sown fields. Flowering is general in early cultivations, and bolls are forming, especially in the case of Upper Egyptian cottons. A few egg masses of cotton worm were seen towards the middle of the month, but were confined to leaves, and the pest was actively dealt with. Many of the newly hatched larvæ were killed by heat, and the crop has not suffered from the attack. Wilt was noticed on Sakellarides, but caused very slight damage, and the attack is now dying out. The aphis attack was also slight and confined to small areas on the borders of fields, so that the damage caused by this pest was insignificant. The general condition of the crop is satisfactory.

The Irrigation Report of the Ministry of Public Works, May 21 to June 20, reads :—

Lower Egypt : Sowing of rice progressed rapidly throughout the month, and very much of the land in authorised rice zones has already been sown, besides large unauthorised areas lying outside these zones. Cotton was also found to cover larger areas than usual, so that difficulties naturally arose in the distribution of water. Towards the end of the month the water supply was hardly sufficient to meet all demands.

Upper Egypt : Difficulties were experienced in connection with the supply of water to tail ends of canals on account of extensive "sefi" crops cultivated this year. The necessary compensations, however, were given and irrigation was carried out satisfactorily.

The report of the Alexandria General Produce Association for the month of June reads :—

Lower Egypt : The temperature during the month of June has been on the whole favourable. The crop is, generally speaking, in good condition and earlier than last year at the same period by ten to fifteen days. Sakellaridis variety planted is less than last year in proportion by about 15 per cent. to 30 per cent., according to the district. Pilion and Zagora have increased, particularly Zagora. As regards other varieties, such as Nubari, Afifi, and White, the proportion appears to be the same as last year. Water for irrigation has been barely sufficient. Leaf-worms have appeared everywhere, but without causing damage, the growers having taken energetic steps to destroy them.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum : The temperature during June has been favourable to the growth. The crop everywhere is in good shape and in advance of last year at this time. Water for irrigation has been barely sufficient. The appearance of leaf-worm has been insignificant.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

A Quiet Week.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 16 :—

Egyptian Spot.—Another quiet week has been in evidence, spinners having shown no disposition to depart from the hand-to-mouth policy upon which they seem to have definitely embarked whilst awaiting the advent of the new crop. The moderate inquiry has been of a fairly general character, with the bulk of the business taking place in Sakel cotton of the strict F.G.F. to Good variety, at about 250 to 350 on July. The scarcity of spinnable Sakellaridis becomes daily more apparent, and spinners are being slowly forced to buy among the lower grades (which they do with extreme reluctance), but their purchasing power is not yet of sufficient weight to harden prices in this quarter; in fact, so far, holders of "off" cotton are generally willing

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to meet buyers in every way possible. There is still a certain interest displayed in Uppers, the demand being met, generally speaking, by re-sales from Home and Continental spinners. Here again the tendency is to favour the buyer. Sudan cotton has been in poor request, very little business having been reported in either the Sakel or the White varieties. Other growths have been neglected. C.i.f. business continues quiet. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 11th inst. were returned as 4,362 bales. Estimated sales, 1,500 Egyptians and 100 bales Sudan. Quotations of Brown and Upper are reduced 35 points for Fair and Good Fair, and 20 points for Fully Good Fair and above. Sakellaridis remains unchanged on the week, with the exception of Fair, which is reduced 10 points. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis to-day 23.35d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Rise in Cotton Prices.

The Manchester cotton trade review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended July 19 states :—

The chief feature of interest during the past week has been an upward movement in raw cotton rates, which, being contrary to the expectations of this market, has been a depressing factor. Although reports from America regarding the crop have been less favourable, the rise in values is not yet considered here to be justified.

Yarn.—Conditions in the American section remain very irregular, but the turnover for the week shows, perhaps, a little improvement, although some of the prices taken are said to be very low. Egyptian spinnings have been in fair demand. There has been an upward tendency in quotations owing to dearer cotton.

Cloth.—A little more business has been done than recently, the principal demand being, of course, from India. China has placed a fair amount of orders, and Egypt has displayed more activity than for quite a while back. Business for the home trade also would appear to be improving. On the whole, there is a tendency for more machinery to be run in the weaving centres.

Raw Cotton.—The advance in the price of American raw cotton, attributed to only moderate weather reports, has already been referred to, and Egyptian has moved accordingly. Closing prices yesterday were as follows :—American fully middling, 17.38; Egyptian fully good fair, 23.85.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended June 30 amounted to £E6,860, making the total from April 1 £E64,066.

Phœnix Oil and Transport.—Well No. 4 Gura Ocnetei started producing at the rate of 200 tons per day on the 7th inst., since when it has been producing continuously at an increasing rate which attained 300 tons per day on the 12th inst. Well No. 71 Tintea produced on the 11th inst. 180 tons in five hours. Well No. 4 Pascov struck oil and after producing 124 tons became plugged but is now being cleaned. Well No. 7 Runcu and Well No. 112 Tintea.—These two wells have struck the oil sand and entered the producing stage.

ROUMANIAN OIL IN 1923.

Expansion of Production.

The report on conditions in Rumania in 1923 by Mr. Alexander Adams, Commercial Secretary to the British Legation at Bucharest, contains a report on Roumanian oil by Mr. Louis Johnston, from which we give the following extracts :—

In 1923 there was an enormous increase in drilling activity, for 114,705 metres were drilled, as against 84,052 metres in 1922 and 47,127 in 1921. The Astra-Romana, the Phœnix group, the Steaua-Romana, and the Romana-Americana were mostly responsible for this record. . . . At the end of 1923 there were 907 producing wells and 501 being drilled, nearly all in the district of Prahova, as against 777 producing wells and 410 in drilling in 1922. During 1923 the supply of electric power was more regular than in previous years, for in May the new electric power station at Floresti built by the Steaua-Romana began to work and satisfied all requirements.

Production.

1,509,804 tons of crude were produced during 1923, as against 1,372,905 tons in 1922. At the commencement of 1923 the daily production was 4,000 tons per day; at the beginning of February it was 4,250 tons; and throughout the year it rose and fell, touching as high as 4,500 tons daily in November, and never dropping below 4,100 tons daily. The average production daily was 4,136 tons. as against 3,742 tons daily in 1922. The increase in the production amounts to more than 10 per cent. on the production of 1922, which was 18 per cent. more than in 1921. The 1921 production was 12½ per cent. more than in 1920, whilst the 1920 production was 12 per cent. more than in 1919. It is thus clear that the production is steadily increasing. The pre-war (1913) production was 1,850,000 tons, so that the industry has only regained 82 per cent. of its production after five years.

The production was obtained from the following fields (the figures representing tons) :—Moreni, 665,490; Ochiuri, 202,594; Bustenari, etc., 197,094; Gura Ocnitzei, 104,038; Arbanash, 88,860; Baicoi, 78,981; Campina, 65,357; Tintea, 52,865; other fields, 54,525.

It is interesting to note that the production has increased 70 per cent. in Ochiuri (a comparatively new field near Targoviste) and at Gura Ocnitzei, in the same district. Nevertheless Moreni, also in the same district, claims 45 per cent. of the total production as last year. On the other hand, Baicoi has not proved a success, for its production during 1923 is 40 per cent. lower than in 1922, whilst there are 53 producing wells at Baicoi and 78 in drilling. The average production of each of the

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producing wells in Baicoi is only 4 tons per day. Nevertheless, the companies have the courage to be drilling the above further 78 wells. The Romano-Americana (Standard Oil) have by far the biggest interest in this field. Curiously enough, Tintea, which is hardly more than a mile from Baicoi, has improved and is still improving. Here there are 43 producing wells and 25 in drilling, and 52,865 tons were produced at Tintea during 1923 against 46,029 tons in 1922. The average production per well is not more than at Baicoi, but Tintea is a very old field in comparison, and has been neglected by all the big companies with the exception of the Orion Company, which had 21 producing wells and 11 in drilling, and obtained practically all the production, the average production of each of its wells being more than 13 tons per day. This is a very satisfactory figure because Tintea is only about 5 miles from Ploesti, the refining centre, and transport and all other expenses are much less than at any other field in the country.

The following are the companies that obtained the production:—Astra-Romana (Shell group), 414,122 tons; Steaua-Romana (Roumanian, British, French), 222,676 tons; Romano-Americana (Standard Oil), 163,630; Concordia (French, Belgian), 166,518 tons; Credit Minier (Roumanian), 158,050; Phœnix Oil and Transport Co., Limited (British), 104,816; I.R.D.P. (Roumanian), 57,453. The Romano-Americana, the Steaua-Romana, and the Concordia produced less than in 1922; otherwise most of the principal companies all shared in the increase of production.

It was obtained mostly from fountain wells. The Steaua-Romana had a well at Runcu spouting 930 tons in twelve hours. The Astra-Romana had a well at Bana Moreni spouting 450 tons per day and six others in the same district spouting from 60 to 350 tons per day. The I.R.D.P. had spouters of 200 tons and 220 tons daily, the Colombia Company 300 tons and 180 tons, and the Phœnix group two wells giving each 120 tons, another giving 60 tons, and a fourth giving 100 tons daily.

The value of Roumania's production in 1857 is recorded as lei 11,000; in 1899 at lei 10,000,000, in 1921 at lei 1,163,765,000, and in 1923 at lei 4,151,961,000. Roumania's production of crude for 1923 is approximately 1.2 per cent. of the world's production.

A Steaua-Romana well at Aricesti reached an important source of gas at 417 metres. The average production was 240,000 cubic metres in twenty-four hours. It is being piped to the Floresti electric installation and used there as fuel.

Prices of Crude.

In February, 1923, Bustenari crude was sold for 2,000 lei to 2,250 lei per ton. In March the price was 2,400 lei to 2,650 lei, and in April 2,800 lei to 2,900 lei, but dropped to 2,000 lei in May and June because of a slump in the price of light benzine following upon increased production in America. Later in June, however, the price rose to lei 2,700 and then to lei 2,850 per ton, on account of increased maximal prices for products consumed in the country. These prices were maintained until December, when, on account of proposed new regulations, the price rose to lei 3,200 per ton, and was rising at the end of the year. The price rose to this figure without being influenced by the rate of exchange, so that at the time of writing, crude oil is being sold for the equivalent of over £4 per ton, whilst before the war the price was £2 per ton, which compensates for the increased cost of drilling material.

1,337,224 tons were treated at the refineries as against 1,212,823 tons in 1922. These 1,337,224 tons produced at the first distillation the following: Benzine, 300,847; lamp oil, 213,206; mineral oils, 126,103; residuals, 667,535; total, 1,307,691.

Only 87 per cent. of the production passed through the refineries, which, as the crude stocks on hand remain about the same, indicates that some of the crude was still being used as fuel.

There are 22 refineries in the Prahova district, nearly all at Ploesti; 13 in Bacau, 1 in Constantza, 6 in Dambovitza, 4 at Buzau, and 16 others. Altogether there are 62 refineries, of which 39 are very small installations; nevertheless, the country's production is but a small percentage of the quantities these refineries are capable of dealing with, and some of them are frequenfly closed down.

Exports.

During the year the exports were as follows:—To Austria, 53,852 tons; Egypt, 45,303 tons; Hungary, 40,658 tons; Italy, 37,086 tons; England, 33,645 tons; Germany, 32,225 tons; Turkey, 31,009 tons; Yugoslavia, 29,339 tons; France, 20,590 tons; other countries, 60,435 tons; total, 384,142 tons. 430,226 tons were exported in 1922, so that in 1923 the exports were 10½ per cent. less in sympathy with the increased internal consumption.

The quantity exported in 1923 was 25 per cent. of the production, against 31 per cent. for 1922 and 1921. The percentage of production exported has decreased regularly since the armistice. In 1913, for example, 55 per cent. of the production was exported, having steadily increased from 1907, when 38 per cent. was exported. This is accounted for by the fact that Roumania had 7 millions population before the war, whilst in 1923 there were 17½ millions, and naturally the internal consumption is much greater and on the increase.

Most of the export was effected through Constantza on the Black Sea, viz., 219,222 tons, whilst 110,391 tons were dispatched from Giurgiu on the Danube. The balance of 54,529 tons was sent by rail except for 10,779 tons dispatched from Oltenitza on the Danube, and very small quantities from Braila, Cerna-Voda, Orsova, Sulina, Galatz, and Turnu-Severin.

There are two State pipelines from Ploesti, the chief refining centre, to Giurgiu on the Danube, one for refined and distilled lamp oil and the other for gas oil and crude oil. 450 tons daily can be conducted by each of these lines and they pass Bucharest. The State line to Constantza on the Black Sea transports 700 tons daily of white spirit or other special product. 37,150 tons of refined lamp oil were pumped to Giurgiu, and 22,960 tons of crude for a refinery at Cerna-Voda. 37,560 tons of refined lamp oil were pumped to Bucharest and Buzeu. 34,680 tons of refined lamp oil were pumped from Bucharest and Ploesti to Constantza. Difficulty has been experienced in delivering the consignments at destination because of the oil that remains in the lines, and companies were invited to provide the necessary quantity of "dead stock" but refused.

The production of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week to July 11 was: Gemsah, 18 tons; Hurghada, 3,519 tons.

The production of the Indo-Burma Oilfields in May was 4,465.3 barrels, being 2,637.5 barrels from Yenanma Field and 1,827.8 barrels from Padaukpin Field.

The British Vice-Consul at Skoplje reports that the old Turkish measure of weight, the oke, hitherto general in Southern Serbia, has been replaced by the metric system.

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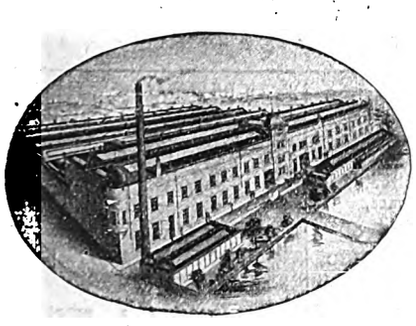

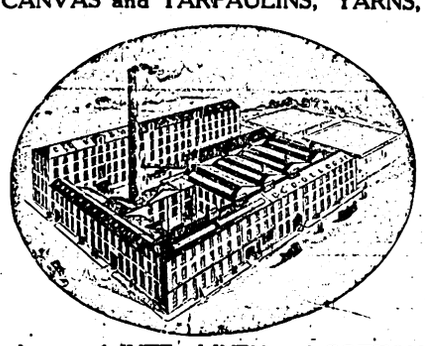

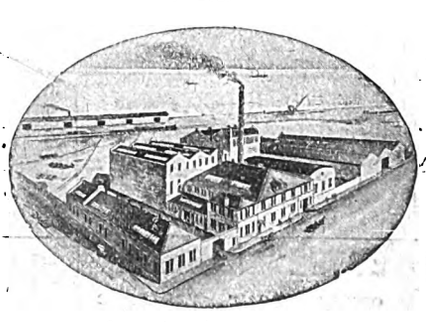

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No. 690—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Greek Republic.

The occurrence of a Ministerial crisis within four months of the establishment of the Greek Republic is not the best augury for the stability of the new order. It is the more unexpected, as the conversion of Greece into a republic appeared to be largely the work of M. Papanastasiou, and his position at the head of the Government was almost to be regarded as essential to the successful working in its early stages of the republican system. He has, however, been unceremoniously driven from office after a stormy four months, during which period he will have learnt, perhaps, that it is harder to build up than to pull down, and that forms of government are of comparatively little moment compared with efficient administration. To replace M. Papanastasiou, the acting President of the Republic has had recourse to M. Sophoulis, a former President of the Chamber and Minister of the Interior in two previous Cabinets. The new Prime Minister had not taken any prominent part in the overthrow of M. Papanastasiou, and his selection would seem to have been determined by the unwillingness of the four chief leaders of the opposition to the late Ministry to serve in the Government of any one of their number. They have accorded their support to M. Sophoulis, but have not entered his Cabinet—an arrangement which may prove embarrassing to the Prime Minister. It is expected, however, that he will be accorded a vote of confidence by the Chamber, which will shortly afterwards adjourn, and he will thus be given a little time to consolidate his position before any disruptive tendencies can make themselves felt in the Ministry.

Cabinet-Building in Yugoslavia.

The political situation in Yugoslavia has been passing through a curious phase. Without formally handing in his resignation, M. Pashitch informed King Alexander of his inability to carry on the government of the country under existing conditions, and requested leave to hold new elections. M. Yovanovitch, President of the Skupshtina, himself a Radical, was thereupon invited by the King to see whether he could form a Ministry and continue to administer the country without a dissolution. As a number of Radicals held M. Yovanovitch's view that fresh elections were not desirable at present, while the Prime Minister showed no sign of giving way, the party was threatened with a split. M. Yovanovitch was said to have been promised the support of the Opposition parties, who on this occasion would advance no claims for separate representation in the new Cabinet, but would be content to be represented by Dr. Koroshetz. The question was finally submitted to a meeting of the Radical Club, at which, in spite of the backing promised to M. Yovanovitch, the majority of the party sided with M. Pashitch, and M. Yovanovitch is reported to have been won over to his leader's views regarding the desirability of new elections. King Alexander at once turned to the Opposition, and entrusted M. Liuba Davidovitch with the task of forming a Ministry.

King Alexander and the Crisis.

Not the least interesting feature of the Ministerial crisis in Yugoslavia is the long-drawn-out struggle between the King and his masterful Minister. Ever since the last elections, which left him in a minority of the Skupshtina, M. Pashitch has set his heart on a dissolution and on holding new elections, at which he hoped to improve the position of his party. King Alexander considered that it was not desirable in the interests of the country to hold a second general election within a year, until every effort to carry on with the existing Skupshtina had been tried and proved to be impossible. By his insistence upon this point the King has gradually brought about a practical measure of co-operation among the Opposition parties, and M. Davidovitch, leader of the Democrats, has been able to form a Coalition Ministry. He is supported by Dr. Koroshetz, the Clerical leader, and M. Spaho, leader of the Bosniaks, and has included a Dissident Radical in his Cabinet. If, as seems probable, he can count on the support of the Croats, he will have a satisfactory majority, which should assure his Government the necessary stability essential to the interests of the country after the political uncertainty of the last two years. Coalition Cabinets, however, are notoriously insecure, and many divergent views have been grouped together under the Davidovitch umbrella. The Croats will presumably remain an unknown

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factor until a leader arises to take the place of M. Raditch, who may have to make Russia his permanent place of residence, if no other country will receive him. Perhaps the one factor making for political stability in Yugoslavia is the country's weariness of so much party strife.

Albania's Capital.

It is an established axiom that the words and acts of politicians out of office offer little criterion of their conduct and achievements when holding the reins of power. Accordingly the new Albanian Government of Monsignor Fan Noli must be allowed a little longer time in office before the prejudices either of its friends or its enemies can be accepted as a final verdict by impartial observers. If it be true that it has already transferred the seat of government to Valona, it will at least have a definite step, presumably in accordance with a definite line of policy, to its credit. Whether the step is altogether wise is another matter. There was much to be said for abandoning Tirana; the efforts of previous Governments to make that town fulfil the rôle of capital had not been strikingly successful. Valona, however, has its drawbacks, so, too, has Scutari, another claimant for the honour. One difficulty associated with the latter—its proximity to the Yugoslav border—would seem to be overcome by the very fact of making it the capital. There could be no better security for any Albanian town than the presence in it of the representatives of all the Great Powers. From the point of view of buildings suitable for the purposes of Government it is superior both to Tirana and to Valona, and is certainly healthier than the latter. Whether the south would agree to the establishment of the capital of Albania in the north is another matter.

Zaghloul Pasha's Journey.

Saad Pasha Zaghloul has left Egypt for the Continent, and for the present, it is to be hoped, will allow nothing to interfere with his physicians' plans for the complete restoration of his health. He goes first to France, where the details of his "cure" are to be settled. On the eve of his departure from Alexandria he explained further his attitude towards the proposed negotiations by stating that, if he found that to open them did not mean that Egypt would lose and that others would gain any rights, he would take part in them. This would seem to be an entirely new phrase in the mass of words already uttered on the subject. As far as the Sudan is concerned, it is hardly to be expected that, in the case of a friendly agreement with Great Britain, Egypt will be called upon to "lose any rights." The main difficulty all along has been her insistence upon gaining fresh rights and her apparent intolerance of the existing state of affairs. No attempt seems to have been made to show how Egypt's "rights" in the administration of the Sudan have extended in actual practice beyond the mere fact of the condominium. Nothing that has been said by the spokesmen of the British Government so far has suggested that Great Britain would not be prepared to see the British and Egyptian flags flying side by side over the Palace at Khartoum. That would imply, however, loyal acceptance by Egypt of the present arrangement, which gives a British character to the administration of the Sudan, and would entail the complete elimination of the intrigue and deliberate attempts to undermine British authority in the country of which Mr. MacDonald has complained. That there should be no loss or gain of rights on either side is a very different matter from the immediate evacuation of the Sudan by the British and the annexation of the country by Egypt, which were supposed to be the terms that the Egyptian Chamber had imposed upon Zaghloul Pasha as the minimum to be demanded. If such a demand were seriously to be made, and insisted upon, there would be an end to any friendly agreement that might render possible the continued flying side by side of the British and Egyptian flags. It is to be hoped, therefore, that Zaghloul Pasha chose his new phrase advisedly, and that the way to an amicable settlement is not completely barred.

India in the Lords.

The interest of last week's debate in the House of Lords centred in the Secretary of State's reply on the three points raised by his predecessor, the Lee Report, the situation in some of the provinces, and the question of amending the Constitution. Lord Olivier's statement was, as usual, very hard to hear, but, comparing some of the different reports, we gather that it contained little nourishment, though it was formally and bureaucratically correct: The India Office is working very hard on the Lee Report; the provincial Governors can, and will, carry on; the constitutional question is still in the stage of inquiry, and no judgment can be formed. What puzzles us is Lord Olivier's attempt to whitewash, or, rather, greywash, Mr. Das's now notorious act of homage to the memory of a wretched murderer. In one breath we are told that this gentleman is of upright, even saintly, character, and that his act of homage was probably a piece of deliberate deceit, intended merely to frighten the British public. Surely it would be wiser to face the facts without imputing motives. Whatever his character or his intentions, Mr. Das has publicly taken up a position in which he is supported by his own faction, but condemned by a majority of the extremists, and his action constitutes a fact which will not frighten the public in the least, but will certainly tend to confirm its distrust of some of the elements which the ferment in India has recently brought to the surface.

Implementing the Lee Report.

The debate was also marked by a spirited plea from Lord Lee of Fareham for prompt acceptance of the report of the Commission over which he presided. There was, of course, nothing new to be urged, but he marshalled the familiar arguments forcibly and effectively, and obviously he had the House on his side. Here again Lord Olivier seems to us to have attempted to prove too much. He claimed in effect that the India Office needs at least six months to deal with the report. The Commission spent just about that time in recording a large mass of evidence, and formulating its conclusions thereon, so that, to justify his claim, we must infer either that the India Office is not equipped with sufficiently high gear, or that the old machine would not stand the strain of its employment. The fact is that due deference has been shown to the desire of the Legislative Assembly to consider the report at leisure, and we take

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it that the India Office is accommodating its pace to the circumstances. There is nothing discreditable in that, though the delay is naturally vexatious to those who want to see the matter cleared out of the way, and there does not seem to have been any real necessity for saying anything more.

Politics in the Law Courts.

The curtain has now fallen on the first act of the little comedy which has been staged in Bengal. It will be remembered that the Calcutta High Court recently granted an injunction against a certain motion being brought forward in the Legislative Council, thereby causing considerable inconvenience to the Administration. An appeal was lodged, and the lawyers on both sides seem to have entered thoroughly into the spirit of the play, but the Secretary of State has intervened with a statutory rule making legal that which the Court had held to be illegal, and we suppose the Council will now get to work. The fact remains that the Court has secured some sort of a position in regard to legislative procedure, and those who know Bengal lawyers will have no difficulty in realising that they are eagerly on the watch to exploit the situation for all that it is worth. We expect, therefore, that there are several acts still to come, and that some time must elapse before the combination of legal decisions and amendment of rules shall have established a comprehensive and workable code, of course with the chance of some disastrous deadlock on the way; but, whatever happens, Bengal may be trusted to stand by its High Court, the most purely British institution in the country, and at the same time the most popular.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Government and the League.

The chief significance of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's refusing of the draft treaty of Mutual Assistance lies in its dividing effect upon the Labour Party—it was scarcely a decision of national importance. But it does seem quite effectively to have split the sentimental supporters of the League of Nations in the Labour Party from the severely practical opponents of the League in that party. One cannot by any course of reasoning make out that the decision has been arrived at on purely patriotic grounds, so that, generally speaking, the effect of it is, although it has been widely blamed and lauded in the Press, quite negligible.

General Apathy.

The Government goes from defeat to defeat as merrily as a marriage-bell rings. The Premier recently said, with blighting truth but with less obvious moral than usual, that no other Government than his could "suffer ten defeats and not turn a hair." The only possible comment on this is that the Government is bald, bald of achievement if not of ideas. It is trying hard, no doubt, and there is no point in decrying its endeavours; but one has had to refrain from chronicling such epoch-making events as the progress of the London Conference and of the Soviet negotiations with Whitehall simply because there has been no progress. And in front of all these disappointments the public still seem quite indifferent—almost as indifferent as the official Conservatives and Liberals.

Après M. MacDonald.

In the absence of any action, discussion rages over the coming election. The general opinion appears to be that Mr. MacDonald in his desperate endeavours to reform the world will fail as the result of overwork, and that without him the Labour Party is of little weight. Certainly there is no one at present prominent in Labour counsels who could possibly take the Premier's place, although those who are apt to deride the present Government as a one-man show sometimes forget how easily a leader is pulled out of the rough, so to speak, when emergency arises. One imagines that the Labour Party is far richer in potential leaders than are the older parties.

And, incidentally, the Liberal Party is particularly loud in its cry for a leader just now. There seem to be very few young men in this party now—just a handful of intellectuals who have not yet reconciled themselves to service under the Labour standard.

Newspaper Protagonists.

It is true that important things like agricultural wages and housing are discussed, with not very helpful results, in the House of Commons, but the country is a little tired of inaction in regard to them, and turns with a frolicsome eye to the occasional encounters between Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Lloyd George. One of these men finds it extremely difficult to make the other agree to his version of exactly what happened in the negotiations over our debt to America. They speak, and then they write to the newspapers. Then the newspapers write about them, so that at the end of it all we are a little fogged. But there is one thing that is perfectly obvious between these two protagonists. Whereas Mr. Baldwin's is simple, direct, unbending English, Mr. Lloyd George's is slippery, evasive, and unconvincing. But the ex-Liberal Premier has been through so much and experienced so many things that if he were able to recall them all as accurately as he claims to do, Macaulay's power of memorising would soon be forgotten. As yet, however, it is still possible to think Macaulay's power superior.

A Cricket Rule.

I have never yet met a cricketer who knew all the rules of cricket: the infallibles are always the civilians who write to the papers. A few weeks ago we were all startled to find an M.C.C. ruling interpreted in a strange way, and had consequently to reform our dusty conceptions. When Cambridge University were playing Surrey at the Oval, one of their batsmen had one of his bails removed—it did not fall to the ground, but it was shifted

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out of the stick's groove. An appeal was made, and both umpires agreed that the ruling "if a bail be struck off" applied in this case, and the batsman was given out. We rubbed our eyes when we read of it, and resolved to remember the case in future.

Curiously enough, I was playing in a game the following Saturday, and the same thing occurred. The batsman was one of those delightful farmers who do not have to read the newspapers, and, knowing nothing of the Oval decision, he returned to the pavilion more ponderingly than usual.

But now all's right with the world again. Last week the M.C.C. gave a ruling which meant in effect that one bail must be on the ground before a batsman can be given out.

Spiritual Healing.

It was a member of the Catholic Church who brought up the cases of the Lourdes miracles before a body of British medical men—the cases which, as I reported recently, were adjudged by the doctors as "not proven." But there is obviously a tendency among Christians generally to wish to explore, or to have genuine medical opinion explore, all avenues of spiritual healing. Before the British Medical Association the other day the Archbishop of York pleaded that the place of the mind and spirit in the art of healing be established. He went further than this, and foreshadowed "a great revival of healing through faith made active by self-discipline and prayer," which one supposes implies the interposition of religious rites.

Such progress would be reaction with a vengeance. It will be recalled that the Committee of the Lambeth Conference appointed to inquire into this matter did not arrive at very heartening results, and stated definitely that healing was not the Church's function, if merely the recovery of bodily health were being sought. What Dr. Lang, however, appears to desire is a complete merging of science and religion in this matter.

The Political Harvest.

It is said that this year's harvest is to be the most political in all our recent history—that our very social structure, in fact, depends upon it. In English farming there is a lamentable lack of capital, and the banks have advanced up to their limit. Upon this year's grain, therefore, now goldening, depend the futures of many farmers, and, consequently, that of our national agricultural policy.

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So far as I have seen—and it is delightful to have seen it—the fields of wheat are splendid. Ripening has been beautifully equal, the ears are well-filled and long, the straw is strong, and, indeed, faith in the land fills one as one passes by these fateful fields. It is true that there seem more weeds than there used to be (though is there more lovely a sight than poppies among oats with the sun after rain upon them?), but farmers presumably simply could not afford the expense of weeding.

The countryside is, indeed, glorious just now. Where fields are not turning white and gold, they give out a scent of rich, strengthening hay. Even cricketers, for such a sight as this, forgive the Rain God his orgies during May.

Guaranteed Audiences.

Very much of London's theatrical entertainment in recent months has been due to the enterprise of Mr. Barry Jackson and his company from Birmingham. He has given us splendid productions of "The Immortal Hour" and of "Romeo and Juliet." And he has now brought forward a scheme, which, although, of course, far from new, may do much towards saving the theatre. This is nothing less than the securing of an audience before the production of a piece. To his own Birmingham he has promised that he will grant a repertory season of several weeks if it will guarantee him that his theatre there (a small one) will be at least three-quarters filled.

This is a very sensible way of tackling the business. Theatre managers in recent years have dropped too much for the old, unorganised ways to be persisted in much longer. There is no reason why, for certain plays, sufficient audiences should not be booked in advance.

Subterranean Gardens.

One finds many things on the Underground, chiefly, perhaps, good and beautiful advertisements. But one has been especially pleased to notice lately the efforts which the workers on the Underground make to add a little gaiety to a life which must at times be excessively drab. I mean the gardens which are cultivated along the line. The other day the directors made a tour of inspection to choose out the prizewinners.

It is said that in the East End there are marvellous triumphs over natural obstacles, and that the marigolds on Whitechapel Station are a joy to behold. I know that at South Kensington there is a linesman who fights a winning battle with his antirrhinums and dahlias against the gloom of the place. Farther West, of course, the gardens are much richer and brighter. I believe the company supply earth for the cultivation of these gardens, which certainly make an enormous difference to one's attitude towards a belated train.

Alter Ego.

MONTENEGRIN RELIEF FUND.

It is announced that the Montenegrin Relief Fund, which was instituted at the outbreak of the Great War by Sir John Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro in Great Britain, who died last year, is about to be closed. About £80,000 in all was collected, and many thousands of destitute Montenegrin refugees were helped, including a member of the late King's family and some of the Cabinet and representatives of the aristocracy. A large number of refugees proceeded to America. Outstanding contributions should be sent to the Fund's offices, 36, Bucklersbury, E.C.4, addressed to Sir William H. Thomas.

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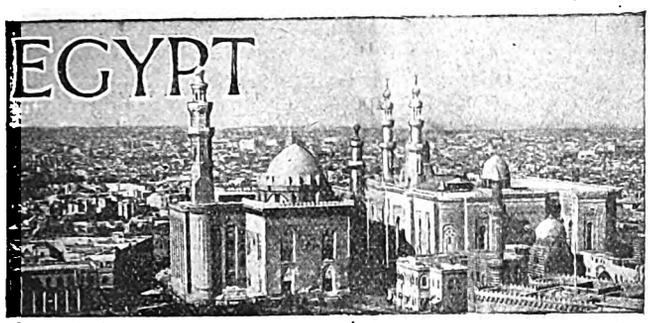
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, July 19.

The Attempt on Zaghloul Pasha.

The messages cabled back here to the vernacular Press indicate that the details of the attempt on Zaghloul Pasha have been so fully communicated to the British Press as to render it unnecessary for me to deal with the immediate event. The Premier when he arrived at the station to take his seat on the Alexandria train was accorded a most enthusiastic reception, and it was with difficulty that he managed to make his way through the crowd of joyful admirers who pressed around him to kiss his hand or the hem of his coat. Like a flash that happy atmosphere was turned into a scene of fury by the attempt on their idol's life. The assailant was seized and pulled on to the ground, where the whole crowd threw itself on him in a body. One man in his rage leaped at him and bit a piece out of one of his ears, while another was seen, as the man lay on the ground, to lift his heavy boot to smash in his skull. Had it not been for the intervention of the police he would have been beaten to death within a few minutes. As it was he was pretty severely mauled and had to receive medical treatment, as soon as he could be got away from the station.

As the news spread one could notice a distinct wave of excitement sweeping over the city. At one time indeed there was some fear of disturbances. It was but natural that the anger of the Zaghloulists should be turned against the political opponents of their beloved chief, but good sense soon gained control, and beyond a demonstration or two outside the offices of the various opposition papers there has been nothing in any way to disturb the public peace. Nevertheless, it was only timely action on the part of the authorities that saved a massacre of Armenians. As has happened so often before, no sooner was the attempt known than it was bruited abroad that the aggressor was an Armenian. The attitude of the crowds in the streets became so threatening that the Armenian shopkeeprs at once put up their shutters, and it is certain that they would have been attacked before evening had not the Government got wind of the trouble and immediately issued a *communiqué* to the effect that the assailant had been arrested and had proved to be a young Egyptian.

The attempt came as a great shock and created widespread indignation. There was no mistaking the general feeling and the so-called Opposition wholeheartedly joined in the repudiation of this odious crime. In any case no useful purpose even to party interests could be served by the removal of the head of the Government just at the moment when he was about to enter upon negotiations with Great Britain. Such an act, had it been successful, could but have had for effect to plunge the country into a relatively chaotic state and indefinitely to postpone the settlement which, from their various points of view, every section of the population wants to see. It is because this would have been the inevitable result that the inspiration for this foul deed is attributed to the element that has most to gain from the creation of trouble in Egypt —viz., the Khedivist faction.

The Source of the Crime.

Various facts are adduced to confirm this theory. The assailant came from Berlin, and is a member of the Egyptian Society formed there by Sheikh Abdel Aziz Shawish, the notorious agitator and extremist Nationalist. That society has all along been in touch with the ex-Khedive and his agents, and has always been regarded as a branch of the Hasb El Watani, with certain prominent members of which Abbas Hilmy has maintained close relations. The assailant, as soon as he arrived in the country, went straight to Hasb El Watani friends, instead of to his family. He frequented them throughout his stay, and the night before the attempt was in the company of the redoubtable Sheikh. Moreover, a certain lady has been interrogated, and papers found at her house and her own statements show that there was an extensive Khedivist organisation in this country in which various members of the Hasb El Watani had an active hand. All this is regarded by the authorities as clearly indicating the complicity of leading Hasb El Watanists and of Khedivist agents, and the inquiry is being directed along these lines. It promises to be a long business, since its scope extends beyond the present crime far back into the past; but it is hoped to be able to find out something more definite with regard to the connection of Sheikh Shawish with the various political crimes that have taken place since 1909.

The Premier's Recovery.

Meanwhile Zaghloul Pasha has made a wonderful recovery. Not that the wounds were in themselves so serious, but his advanced age and general state of health, as well as the presence in his chest of the bullet, the removal of which was complicated by the malady from which he has so long suffered, aroused fears of the possible after-effects of this attempt. However, not only have the wounds healed more quickly than the doctors ever ex-

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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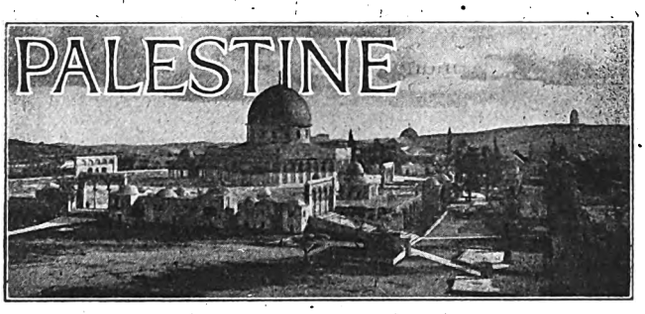
pected, but he has withstood the shock so well that he has been allowed to return to his house. The occasion was seized by the public as a good opportunity for demonstrating its feelings, and his drive from the hospital to his home partook more of the nature of a triumphal progress. Various receptions have been organised to celebrate his escape and recovery, and it looks as if the doctors had saved him from the hand of the assassin only to suffer under the well-intentioned demonstrations of joy of his supporters!

At the moment of writing it is virtually decided that he will carry out his original plan of sailing for Europe on the 25th, but it is not yet known whether his original programme of taking a series of cures in France and being ready to meet Mr. MacDonald in London about the middle of September may not have to be slightly varied, as a result of the changed conditions. One thing, however, is certain. While this attempt will in no way prevent the meeting between the British and Egyptian Premiers, Zaghloul Pasha goes to London more strongly supported than ever by the country. His previous sufferings gave him the halo of a martyr, but this attempt on his life has, so to speak, "canonised" him in the minds of his fellow countrymen.



Jerusalem, July 19.

Palestinian Collaboration.

It is becoming increasingly easy to pick out items of news showing Arab and Jewish collaboration, just as it is becoming increasingly hard to find—what was once so easy and what, till recently, gave Palestinian news its particular tone and interest—items proving active and passive hostility between Jew and Arab. That part of the Arab Press which has assumed the duty of preaching Arab nationalism and resistance to Zionist inroads finds its primary duty now in attempting to stir up the Arabs out of their indifference and supineness in face of "foreign oppression." The only political or semi-political response to such tirades is the successive formation of "Peasant Parties"—first Nablus, then Hebron, and now the Haifa district—whose main concern is to improve their own economic status, imitate Jewish agricultural schemes of co-operation and loans, and to bring in details of political creeds only as an afterthought.

A General Strike.

Two episodes are worth recording under the head of recent Arab-Jewish collaboration. A fortnight ago Palestine endured, for the first time, a thoroughly well-organised general strike. On July 1 a new tariff of taxes was to be applied to cars, public and private, and all hired vehicles; and on July 1 not a hired car or carriage of any kind was to be seen abroad The strike persisted for four or five days, by which time the horse-driven vehicles won their case, and motor vehicles obtained some revision of terms. Arabs and Jews here stood by each other with obvious effect. The only complaint one heard was that the Jews organised the strike and left the Arabs to do the less agreeable work of "picketing."

The Jaffa Delegation.

The second episode is that of the "Jaffa-Tel-Aviv Harbour Deputation" to London. This deputation, comprising a leading Jew (M. Dizengoff, mayor and creator of Tel-Aviv), a leading Moslem (Said Eff. Abu Khadra, vice-president of the Jaffa Moslem-Christian Association—no less!), and a conspicuous Christian-Arab Jaffa merchant—this deputation left this week for England to plead the case of Jaffa to be the first possessor of an up-to-date harbour, as opposed to Haifa. The case for Haifa was given in THE NEAR EAST some months ago. It is a strong case; but it does not follow that Jaffa should be neglected altogether* and forced to lose most of its trade to Haifa. The interested men of business in Jaffa and Tel-Aviv have an alternative scheme of putting up a jetty at the point where Jaffa and Tel-Aviv join; this they are prepared, if permission is given them, to do on their own financial responsibility.

Tel-Aviv.

One can scarcely fail to be impressed to-day with the growth and development of Tel-Aviv, this Jewish suburb of Jaffa. Four years ago, when the present writer first knew it intimately, it did not create a very favourable impression. It was just a very tidy collection of seemingly jerry-built houses, shot up rapidly in cheap material, painfully out of keeping with its Oriental surroundings; and its inhabitants were mainly, from the economical point of view, the unproductive class—officials, school teachers, professional men with little or nothing to do. Since then there befell the May riots of 1921, the chief result of which was to drive almost all the Jewish population out of Jaffa into Tel-Aviv; there has also been, of course, a steady stream of immigrants, and those immigrants who prefer town-life, and are able to make their choice, prefer Tel-Aviv to Jerusalem or the colonies. The impression one now receives is quite different from that of four years ago. The place is about four or five times larger; the population has increased in proportion (it is now about 22,000), and has been heavily impregnated with the industrial element (to such an extent that the Municipal Council is in the hands of the "Po'alim," the Labour Party). A better, more suitable, and more Oriental type of

* In the article referred to (THE NEAR EAST, December 6 1923), Mr. Frederick Palmer was clearly of the opinion that harbours should be built both at Haifa and Jaffa.—ED.

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house is being built—though there are still innumerable atrocities going up in the shape of baby American "sky-scrapers," tawdry English suburban villas, and an odd-looking synagogue. The Mayor of Tel-Aviv is visiting London armed with all manner of statistical charts for display in the Palestine Pavilion at Wembley. His contribution to Palestine is a great one. It is hopelessly out of keeping with the idea of Palestine as an interesting archæological museum—but it is rapidly adding to our creature comforts as an industrial and manufacturing town.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

BULGARIAN REPARATIONS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Your reference to the correspondence on Bulgarian Reparations which recently appeared in *The Times* shows that the subject is engaging attention, and that further elucidation would not be amiss, all the more so since some of the figures cited are liable to create an erroneous impression of Bulgaria's economic capacity, and mislead British exporters to that country into a false sense of security, involving them thereby in unnecessary losses.

Though, strictly speaking, less than one-fortieth of Bulgaria's revenue is required for payment of reparations, nevertheless between one-fourth and one-fifth of the total revenue is absorbed by the service of the national debt and for the payment of indemnities of various sorts. As for the upkeep of the army, it costs yet another milliard leva.

Some may find that this is not an excessive financial effort, and that it is well within the limits of Bulgaria's paying capacity. It should be remarked, however, that certain essential services have been positively starved, and that the functionaries are wretchedly underpaid—their salaries having been increased eight to ten times, while the cost of living has augmented thirty times. It is a truism that an underpaid civil service does not make for efficiency, nor even for economy, in the long run, and the Allies are going against their own interests by permitting this anomaly. Smuggling is one of the resultants of this state of affairs, and it is certainly no exaggeration to say that the Bulgarian exchequer has been defrauded of some hundred millions of leva by this illicit practice alone in the course of last year.

The crux of the problem, however, is not the raising of the money required for payments abroad, but its conversion into gold and this is a material impossibility so long as Bulgaria has an adverse commercial balance. Other States may allot a larger percentage of their revenue to the service of their respective debts. It will be found, however, that it is a matter of internal redistribution, and the question of transfer abroad, at least on such a large scale, as in the case of Bulgaria, does not arise.

That a catastrophic fall in the lev is bound to ensue sooner or later if the present policy is pursued is more than obvious, and the argument adduced in support of the contention that Bulgaria can pay—namely, the unreserved acceptance by the Bulgarian Government of the Allies' demands—is puerile in the extreme. For Stamboliski subscribed to them in order to obtain a free hand at home; he even made a very deft use of the reparation question, since he threatened to impose the whole burden of these payments on those electoral districts which would vote in favour of his political opponents. As for the Zankoff Government, it was clearly a case of duress; it could not but acquiesce, faced as it was with revolution at home and with aggression from outside. To the Serbian menace it could hardly add the risk of a conflict with the Allies.

The question of Bulgarian Reparations should be taken up at the earliest, and before the injury inflicted becomes irreparable. For a few thousand pounds that may eventually find their way into the British Exchequer, it is not worth while losing this small yet valuable market to British industry and commerce, besides plunging Bulgaria into the welter of an economic crisis which is bound to have very grave repercussions, not only on the political life of that country, but possibly on that of the whole Near East.—I am, etc.,

G. CLENTON LOGIO.

INDIA DAY AT WEMBLEY.

Friday, July 25, was kept as a special India Day at the British Empire Exhibition. In the morning a conference was held under the presidency of Lady Willingdon, at which various lady speakers dealt with different aspects of the life of Indian women. Lady Helena Victoria read a message from the Queen, and among those taking part in the conference were Lady Cowanjee Jehangir, Lady Ali Imam, Dr. Kate Platt, Mrs. Chaudhuri, Lady Galway, Mrs. N. C. Sen, and Mrs. Mitter. In the afternoon Sir Dadiba Dalal, High Commissioner for India, and Lady Dalal held in the forecourt of the Indian Pavilion a numerously attended reception, at which Princess Helena Victoria and Lady Patricia Ramsay were present. The other guests included the Prime Minister and other members of the Cabinet, representatives of the Dominions, Lord and Lady Willingdon, Lord and Lady Peel, the Nawab of Bahawalpur, the Maharao of Cutch, the Maharaja of Rajpipla, the Begum Saheba of Manavadar, Kunwar Shri Moinuddin Khan, Kunwar Shaikh Abdul Khaliq, Mumtazudowla Nawab Muhammod Mokarramali Khan of Pahasu, Maharaj Kumar of Wankaner, Nawab Bahadur Khwaja Habibullah of Dacca, Major Kanwar Shamsher Bahadur Singh, and many others prominently associated with India.

In a "Notice to Airmen," issued on Saturday, the Air Ministry states that the Roumanian Government, having deposited its ratification of the International Air Convention on May 31, the Convention came into force for Roumania, in respect of the Contracting States, on the 10th inst.

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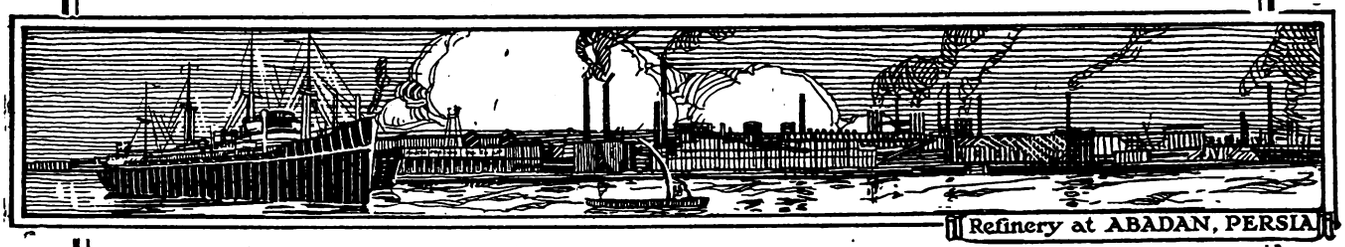

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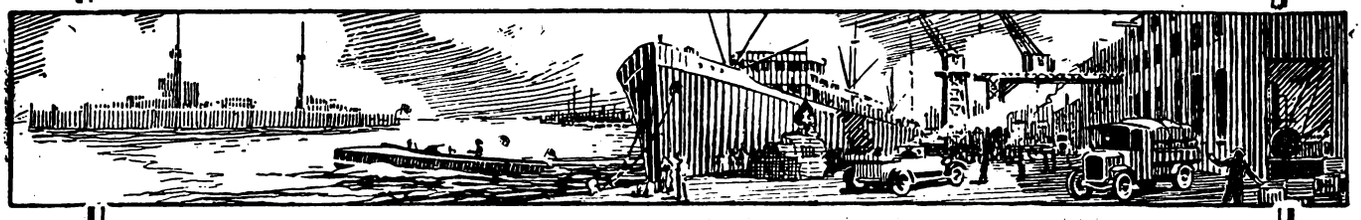

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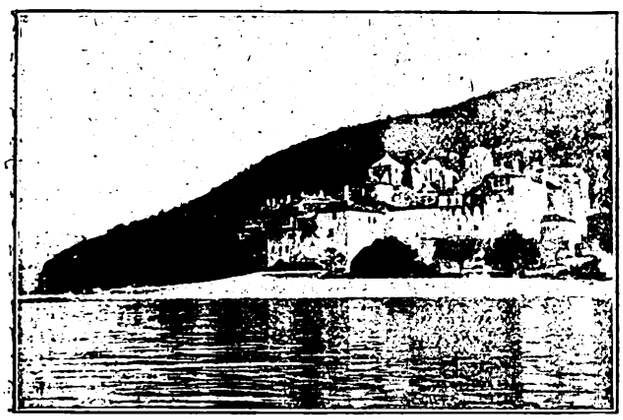
Near East Bookshelf.

A MISCELLANY OF THE NEAR EAST.

"ANATOLICA." By Harry Charles Luke. (London: Macmillan and Co. 16s. net.)

Of books of travel there is no end; but Mr. Luke's "Anatolica" belongs to the very limited number which achieve the distinction of being literature as well. He has had the advantage not only of writing at leisure, but, more important still, of absorbing his subject also at leisure. Thus the three chapters on Cyprus are the outcome of

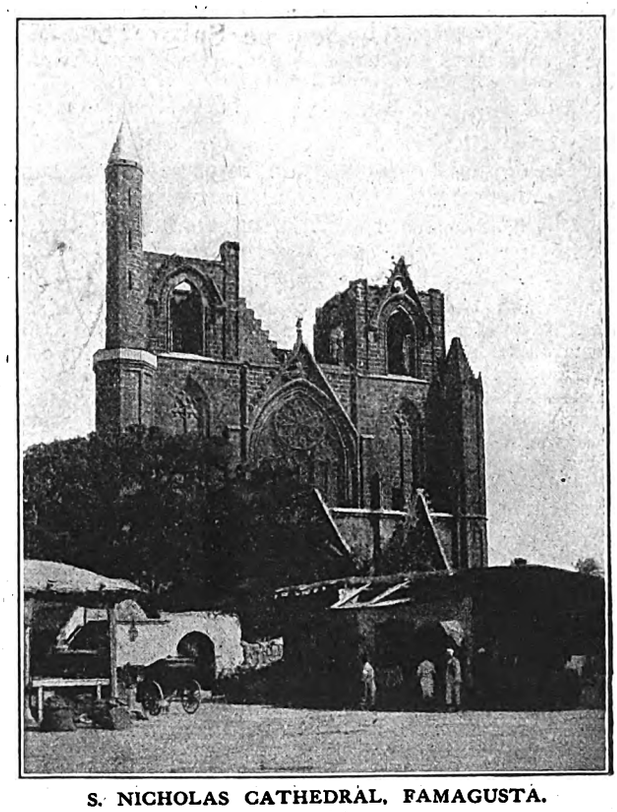


XENOPHON (MT. ATHOS).

six years of official residence in the island; and his knowledge of Transcaucasia is derived from his observations and study when in charge of the British Mission to the three republics. Even so, the book might have been far less attractive if the author had not been a keen observer and a good scholar, with a highly developed artistic sense. We can imagine no more pleasurable way of touring the Near East than with Mr. Luke as guide and mentor; failing him—for the time being he is engaged in discovering the amenities of Sierra Leone—we can strongly recommend this book as a delightful substitute. Even in an exhaustive description of the Old Seraglio on the Bosphorus our author contrives to combine the faithfulness of a guide-book with the artistry of an essay. Details have to be chronicled, but the narrative is not allowed to grow leaden-footed, and always at the right moment comes the apposite digression. Most readers, we imagine, will appreciate the occasional reference to original documents, as when they are reminded of our indebtedness to the Turks for the practice of inoculation against smallpox by the actual letter written by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu in 1717 from Adrianople, in which she describes the process to a friend.

It is for the "enchanted island" of Cyprus that Mr. Luke reserves his superlatives, and if only the inhabitants could give their political aspirations a brief respite and co-operate with the Government to make more widely known the restfulness and attractiveness of Cyprus as a holiday resort, they could hardly do better than borrow some of the descriptions contained in this book. "Although they are small when compared with the great ranges of the world," writes our author, "I claim for the mountains of Cyprus that they contain and are bounded by all that is most perfect in mountain-land and forest, sea and sky." Here is another passage:—

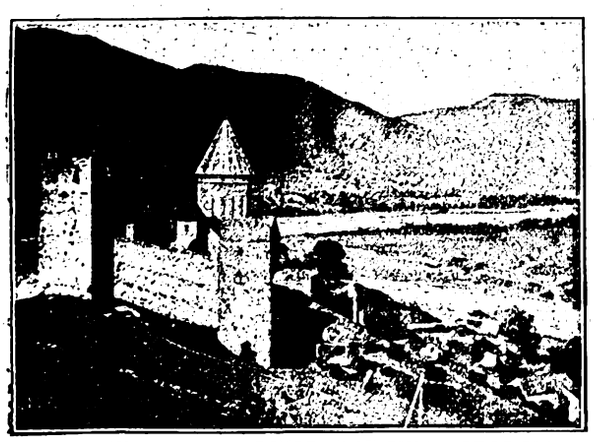
> This is Khalevga, beloved of the chosen few who know it as a place of pure delight, an enchanted nook well worthy of the "Enchanted Island." To the south lies spread below you the full expanse of the Mesaória, with Troodos in the background, and in the foreground the white road winding its way into Nicosia encompassed in its greenery. All this is pleasant enough; but to the north the view beggars description. On either hand the fantastic curves and precipitous slopes of the Kyrenia Mountains, capped with mediæval castles, delightfully wooded, infinitely varied, deeply indented by valleys red with oleander. Below them a narrow strip of fertile land, well covered with olive and caroub trees, and dotted with prosperous villages, glistening in the sunlight. Then forty miles of amaranthine sea, and finally the long line of the Karamanian Taurus, snow-clad and majestic. And what of Khalevga itself, whence all this may be seen? A green paradise, cool, and redolent of pine and cypress and wild myrtle and a hundred fragrant woodland shrubs, nestling against the peak of Qartal Dagh, the home, as its name



S. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL, FAMAGUSTA.

> implies, in Turkish, of innumerable eagles. Around you, all covered with boscage, are lesser crags, where the wood-pigeons have their haunt; at your feet a carpet of ranunculus and anemones, wild hyacinth and violets and tender cyclamen. It is a place of quiet, undisturbed by human habitation other than the forest hut that gives you shelter.

The temptation to quote must, however, be curbed. The book is a mine of fact and legend. An old French belief, we are told, ascribes to Cyprus the origin of champagne; the Abyssinian Church is the only one "to which it has occurred to canonise Pontius Pilate." We are carried back to the days in the fourteenth century when Famagusta could vie in wealth and luxury with any of the cities of that time, to picture it eighty years ago as inhabited "by a miserable population of 500 Turks of both sexes," with its harbour accessible only to the smallest of sailing craft, and to think



ANANUR ON THE RIVER ARAGWA, GEORGIA.

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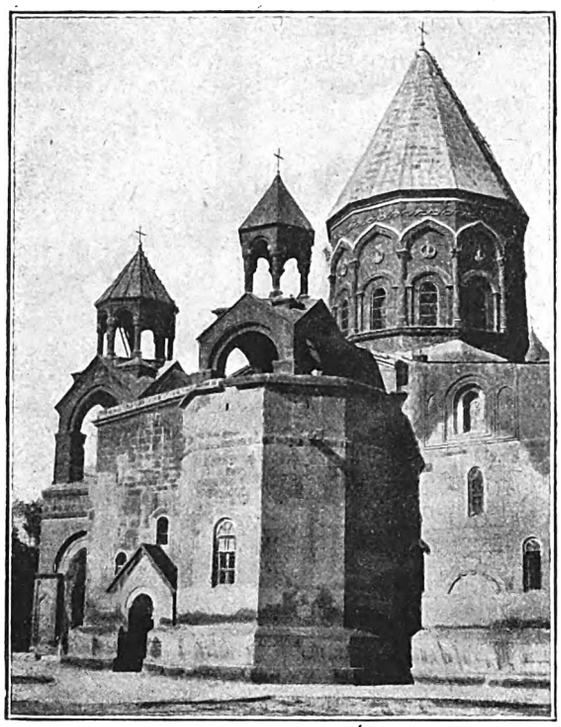

ECHMIADZIN CATHEDRAL.

of it now, with a new lease of life as a result of the advent of the British, restored to ocean-going traffic and capable of becoming, "in competent naval opinion," the best harbour in the Near East.

In turn Mr. Luke takes us to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, with a graphic account of the ceremony of the Holy Fire, to Petra and the cities of Transcaucasia. In this latter section he has embodied an informative summary of the history of this comparatively little-known region, and closes a fascinating volume on the following note :—

> It is a meeting-ground of faiths, among which Christianity and Islam are very young indeed, a place where men pray to God, the devil, the Imam 'Ali, the sun, Queen Tamara, or pray not at all, where an officer may have been an Imperial page at the Court of Petrograd and worship at an altar of goats' horns, where people regard Noah and David as intimate and not too remote relations, where a man will dress in chain mail and be a follower of Karl Marx, where a peasant is often a prince, where Tatar lady physicians spend busy mornings driving their motor-cars from clinic to clinic. . . . Not wrongly was the Caucasus held in awe as the home of strange and fabulous beings, the mysterious scene of marvels, shrouded in Cimmerian gloom at the end of the known world; things as wonderful as those which amazed the ancients and enthralled the hearers of the Arabian Nights still happen in the lands and cities about Mount Qaf.

The book is well illustrated. We are indebted to Messrs. Macmillan and Co. for the photographs reproduced from its pages.

THE HOME OF AN EASTERN CLAN.

"A STUDY OF THE PALAUNGS OF THE SHAN STATES." By Mrs. Leslie Milne, F.R.A.I., M.R.A.S. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 16s. net.)

When the present reviewer went to the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley he visited the beautiful Burmese pavilion to see whether he could find Mrs. Milne's Palaungs. He inquired of a smart young Indian, but he could tell him nothing, and referred him to another man wearing Burmese dress. He addressed the latter, and was taken to a figure representing a Kachin, in full war-paint, who is just the person, according to Mrs. Milne, the Palaung does not wish to be mistaken for, Palaungs being nice, clean, law-abiding Buddhists, who live by the cultivation and manufacture of the tea plant and rice-growing, whereas Kachins are wild and lawless animistic tribesmen, who live by plunder, who seldom if ever bathe, and whose clothes are worn till they drop off. So if anyone wishes to learn about the Palaungs, let him not seek for them at Wembley, but, rather, read Mrs. Milne's fascinating book.

Living as a Palaung, in a Palaung house, seated on the floor, for, to quote her own words, "fortunately to sit on the floor has never been a penance to me, as in my childhood the floor was my favourite seat," eating Palaung food, for she says, "fortunately I do not consider it a hardship if I can get nothing but rice, with curries made of the leaves of wild jungle plants, such as the Palaungs themselves eat; and I rather like to try experiments in new and strange foods," Mrs. Milne endeavoured, and, we believe, with success, to obtain and record the Palaung outlook on life.

The authoress of this book is no ordinary observer, and is, indeed, no ordinary woman, if, with due respect to her sex, one may say so, for the method of her inquiries, the accuracy of her observation of tribal custom, and the skill with which she has welded the result into shape are beyond all praise. As in her book on "The Shans at Home" (Murray, 1910), Mrs. Milne gives us much interesting and valuable information; in this case about a branch of the Mon-Khmer race, which before was practically unknown except to the few who are familiar with the Upper Burma and Shan States Gazetteer. She gives Palaung nursery rhymes, children's games, stories illustrative of courtship and marriage, death customs, a description of the Palaung form of Buddhism, and some delightful folk tales. There is space for a few details only—e.g., two forms of Palaung courtship. A young unmarried girl receives her suitors, either one by one, or several at a time, in her mother's drawing-room; the latter discreetly retires during the visit. Then they converse in symbolical language, which may be likened to a sort of Palaung language of flowers, but in verse, the whole being conducted with the greatest decorum. But Mrs. Milne informs us that in some cases when a young man "begins to pay respect to a young girl" he finds out where she sleeps, from his sister or from a girl cousin. Then at night, when her father and mother are still talking in the entrance-room, he cuts with a sharp knife a hole near the place where her pillow should be and feels round the hole for the girl (Palaung houses are made of bamboo). Marriage amongst the Palaungs is voluntary, and in order to make it as romantic as possible the Palaung girl elopes with the young man of her choice. If the parents object, the girl elopes again, and continues to do so until consent is given. An old man told the authoress that he had run away with his wife twelve times, adding that he would gladly have done this twenty times; then, turning to his old wife, who was present, said: "Perhaps in a future existence we shall run away together. What does thou say, grandmother?" And the old lady laughed and said: "May this be our Karma."

We leave this delightful book with much regret. Before concluding, we should remark that there are some beautiful photographs in it, the work of the authoress, and it has been produced in the usual excellent manner of the Oxford Clarendon Press.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

July 31, 1924 (New Style).
July 18, 1924 (Old Style).
Julheggia 28, 1342, A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Tamuz 29, 5684, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Crown Prince of Roumania has arrived in London from Paris.

Viscount and Viscountess Willingdon have left 5, Lygon Place for France.

Viscount and Viscountess Erleigh have left 65, Rutland Gate for Plymouth.

Commander Sir Gerald Talbot, formerly Naval attaché at Athens, has left London for Paris.

The ex-King George of Greece has arrived at Claridge's Hotel from La Bourboule. His Majesty will stay about a fortnight.

Lord and Lady Oranmore and Browne and the Hon. Kathleen Browne have left Portland Place for Mereworth Castle, Kent, for the autumn.

The Queen honoured with a visit Mrs. Alec Tweedie's exhibition of World Impression sketches at the Alpine Galleries, which closed yesterday.

Madame Gavrilovitch, wife of M. Michel Gavrilovitch, Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, left London last week for Belgrade.

M. Milan Stevanovitch, Secretary at the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, has been transferred to the Legation at Sofia.

The Crown Princess of Roumania, Prince Paul, and Princess Irene of Greece visited The King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on Saturday afternoon.

Djevdet Bey, the newly-appointed Archivist at the Turkish Diplomatic Agency, has arrived in London from Angora and taken up his duties. He is staying in Portland Place.

Sir Horace and Lady Rumbold and Miss Rumbold left for Spain yesterday, and will stay at Zarnuz, near San Sebastian, till October, when they will return to the British Embassy at Madrid.

Prince and Princess Kamel Ed Din on Saturday concluded their visit to London, and left Victoria on Saturday morning for Paris. The Egyptian Minister, with Mme. Aziz Izzet, were at the station to take leave of them.

The Queen has honoured A. O. Lamplough by visiting his exhibition of pictures of Egypt at Klackner's Gallery, 20, Old Bond Street, London, W. Princess Helena Victoria also honoured the artist on the private view day.

The Maharaja of Bikaner, who is to represent the Indian Princes at the Assembly of the League of Nations, is arriving from India a fortnight later than was originally arranged. He will arrive in London on August 26 for a few days, accompanied by his heir and chief Minister, Maharaj-Kumar Sadulsinghji. After his return from Geneva he will remain in this country until October 21.

Mrs. Woods and Mr. H. Charles Woods were At Home to a large number of friends at 171, Victoria Street on July 23. Among those present were the Minister of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, the Latvian Minister, Mme. Stancioff, Prince and Princess Soumbatoff, Mme. Dufour-Feronce, Count Bernstorff, Viscountess Dupplin, Lord and Lady Hemphill, Hester Lady Hart, Edith Lady Bradford, the Hon. Lady Norman, the Hon. Mrs. Durant, Sir Ali and Lady Imam, Brig.-General A. Burt, Mrs. Emile Mond, Sir Albert Seymour, Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, Lady (Willoughby) Dickinson, Lady Prichard Jones, Dame Maud McCarthy and Dr. McCarthy, Mr. Otho Nicholson, M.P., Sir Harry and Lady Lamb and Miss Lamb, Mrs. Cobham, Mrs. de Bunsen, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Montague Bell, Mr. Wratislaw, Mme. Guépin, Colonel and Mrs. Stirling, Miss Stead, and Lieut.-Colonel P. T. Etherton.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Turkish Military Mission, which has been in London for several weeks in order to study Army training, left on July 27 for Poland.

Mr. Justice Beasley, of the Burma High Court, has been appointed a judge in the High Court of Madras in succession to Mr. Justice Coutts Trotter, promoted Chief Justice.

The new colony in Palestine which Mr. E. S. Kadoorie, of Shanghai and London, is founding in memory of his wife, will be situated at Mount Scopus, near the Jerusalem University.

The *Pioneer's* Meshed correspondent telegraphs that Shau-Jaud-Dowleh, late Governor of Herat and Afghan Minister-Designate for London, arrived by motor from Herat and leaves shortly for London, via Duzdap.

The Viceroy of India has sent a donation of Rs.1,000 towards the funds being collected for the foundation of the Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases, and the Maharaja of Nepal has sent a donation of Rs.1,500.

A large wreath of laurels and white lilies was laid on the Unknown Warrior's grave in Westminster Abbey on July 8 by M. Constantin Bacalbasa, president of the Syndicat des Journalistes de Bucharest, on behalf of the Roumanian delegates to the International Press Congress. M. Beza, the Roumanian Consul-General, and M. Ciotori, Press Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, were present at the ceremony.

Bolshevist activity in the Balkans, says the Belgrade correspondent of the *Morning Post*, is responsible for the establishment of a new paper called the *Fédération Balkanique*, the first number of which was published on July 23. It is to appear twice monthly in Bulgarian, Serbian, Croatian, Albanian, Roumanian, Greek, Turkish, and French. The editor is a well-known Communist named Harlakoff.

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THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1924.

COMMUNISM AND THE BALKANS.

It is an ill-wind that blows nobody any good, and there will be no reason to regret the activities of the Communists in the Balkans, if they have the effect of narrowing, in the face of a common danger, the gulfs that divide the neighbouring States from one another. The reasons that prompt the Soviet Government to make a special effort at this time to spread Bolshevist propaganda in the Balkan Peninsula are not far to seek. Discontent is the most favourable forcing-ground for Communism, and, although it has been widespread in Bulgaria, there are signs that it is losing its hold on the people. If Bolshevism is to achieve any permanent result in that country, it must acquire a firmer grip now or abandon the ground—perhaps for ever. Appreciation of this fact has presumably given rise to the movement among the Bulgarian Communists which has alarmed M. Zankoff's Government. In regard to a menace of this nature, all the countries of the Balkans find themselves in the same boat; for the surrender of Bulgaria to a Soviet régime would be the signal for a concentrated attack on each of her neighbours in turn. If the master mind of Russian Bolshevism has not lost its cunning, it will see to it that all the gold at its command is employed in a massed effort to capture one outpost at least in the Balkans before the opportunity passes. In such circumstances, differences between the various States on whatever points embitter them assume a relatively insignificant aspect. The one thing that matters is to prevent the common enemy from gaining any important foothold in the Peninsula. As he is devoting his attention to Bulgaria, it is there that the attack must be met.

Until the Bulgarian Government, of its own accord, hoisted the danger signal within the last fortnight, it had been taken for granted that Communism had received an effective setback in the country as a result of the systematic campaign waged against it by the Zankoff Ministry. The measure of success, however, which that Ministry has attained will only encourage the Soviet Government to increase its efforts, and its scheme appears to be to bring off an attack on a double front, from within through Bulgarian Communists, and from without by stirring up Yugoslavia against Bulgaria by the agency of the Macedonians. Fortunately, the identification of M. Raditch with the activities of Moscow has robbed the Belgrade Government of much of the ground for its contention that Bulgaria must be held responsible for everything that happens in Macedonia. It is the realisation that they have nothing to hope for from the Bulgarian Government that has driven the Macedonian leaders to place themselves in touch with the Soviet régime. Their cause had already been espoused by M. Raditch in his quarrel with the Serbians, and the alleged negotiations between M. Todor Alexandroff and M. Rakovsky will have taken place since the Croatian leader took up his residence in Moscow. It is, therefore, to the interest of Yugoslavia, who also has to cope with intrigue at home, to strengthen the Bulgarian Government as far as possible in its fight against Communism. This can be done by removing all anxiety of Yugoslav aggression from that Government's mind and leaving it free to devote the whole of its strength to deal with any Soviet intrigue that may be on foot in the country. From this point it should prove a comparatively short step to reflection on Jugoslavia's part as to whether, having misjudged the Bulgarians on one question, she ought not to be more ready to give them the benefit of the doubt in regard to others, when it is a case of fears and inferences rather than of definite knowledge. The suggestion is made from the point of view of Balkan interests as a whole, and not in the interests of Bulgaria alone. It would not appear to be sufficiently realised by her neighbours that any agitation promoted by Bulgaria at this time must be confined within the limits of the Treaty of Neuilly. Article 48 promised her an outlet on the Ægean Sea, and she is entitled to claim the fulfilment of this undertaking. She has challenged the justice and expediency of the reparation clauses, and has converted the Inter-Allied Reparation Commission to her way of thinking. But no valid evidence has been forthcoming that she has gone out of her way to encourage the Macedonians to sacrifice themselves on the altar of her interests. Their quarrel is essentially their own, and at no time since the Armistice has there been any suggestion that it is subjection to or incorporation within Bulgaria, and not complete autonomy, that these stubborn fighters want.

We welcome the opportunity that the Communist menace in Bulgaria affords for preaching the cause of peace in the Balkans. It is the fashion to ascribe to pro-Bulgarian myopia insistence upon the fact that there can be no permanent settlement in the Near East until definite grievances have been removed. That some of the most prominent of these grievances are entertained by the Bulgarians is not due to any special tenderness felt towards that nation, but to obvious causes linked up with the Treaties of Bucharest and Neuilly. An equally potent grievance would have existed if Yugoslavia had remained excluded from Fiume and had been given no commercial facilities at Salonika. The Macedonian grievance is made up of even more inflammable material than any put forward by the Bulgarians, and no one acquainted with the tremendous pertinacity of the Balkan peoples can be blamed for refusing to believe that any considerable section of these peoples can be permanently held under subjection against their will. The domestic problem which the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes is called upon to solve is a further testimony to the passionate devotion of every Balkan community to the principle now known as self-determination, which was a creed long before it was given the Wilsonian label. The loyalty of all these communities to the Peninsula is unquestioned. Before the War they may have been encouraged to look outside to this Power or to that as a means for advancing their own interests. To-day the tendency has ceased to exist; it is admitted that even among the Macedonians there is no enthusiasm for the leader's inclination to lean on Bolshevist Russia. Accordingly a greater or less degree of autonomy for any one section would in no way affect the strength of the Peninsula as a whole, but by introducing contentment among the people, would pave the way for the close co-operation among the component States which will give them the standing of a Great Power, and so make each one of them a real factor in Europe.

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ALBANIA.

[*Recent events in Albania have given rise to various interpretations of the forces at work in the country. In the following article a correspondent states his own personal impressions.*—ED.]

While all the world searches patiently for peace, Albania, on the Adriatic coast of the Balkans, affects the political atmosphere of South-Eastern Europe as virulently as a sunspot affects the weather.

June 1, 1924, found her in the agonies of a revolution. To change a Government men were killing their neighbours across the poor valleys and the barren hills. To answer the call of their chiefs up every country track straggled ragged men with rifles. There was much, and empty, talk of Democracy and Aristocracy, and of many such catchwords. It was an internal and a private affair, but every nation in Europe watched it anxiously, and those who knew the facts began to doubt the future of the young State.

Albania was born in 1913, when, after the Balkan Wars, the soul-destroying Ottoman Empire receded. She was guaranteed by the Great Powers and given a king. But the World War swept over her before she had found her feet; and the Austrians held her in bondage. At the Armistice she was occupied by many of the Allies, until the mandate was delegated to Italy; but the Italians met with such opposition from the population that they wisely withdrew, and the new State found itself suddenly free and independent. In December, 1920, it was admitted as a member of the League of Nations, and in November, 1921, it was definitely recognised as a sovereign and independent State.

To strive for independence is one thing; but to form a Government, to organise a State, and produce a compact and efficient nation is a far different matter. Every difficulty stood in the way of the new administrators.

Out of centuries of Ottoman misrule the country had been born bankrupt. Its ignorant, poverty-stricken people are as lazy as they are quarrelsome, so that trade and agriculture are neglected, and the blood feuds make life insecure.

It was made either too large or too small, for its frontiers had been so drawn that in many places a district was given to Albania, and the market towns were put beyond the Yugoslav frontier, despite the fact that the population was entirely Albanian. Thus large tracts of country were left to decay into ruin, and the population was left to starve. Independence was followed by the failure for three years of the maize harvest; and a ruinous and terrible invasion by the Yugoslavs in 1921 laid waste the populous district of Dibra. Famine followed bankruptcy: and in the north especially the state of the country was worse than it had been under Ottoman rule.

Moreover, except in name, there was no nation. It was an artificial structure. Independence is the soul-cry of the Albanians, but it is for local independence. The idea of national unity does not come into their consciousness. The fierce Catholic and Moslem highlanders of the north; the Moslems of the centre, and the Orthodox Christians and Moslems of the south are alike in this. They resent one central government. Any Government formed has found a large percentage of the population against it. Just as through the centuries this spirit of local independence has kept the people free against successive hordes of invaders, so it has prevented, and still prevents, all progress towards national unity. Only now and again have they combined to resist some common foe, as when, in the fifteenth century, under Skander Bey, they withstood the Turks.

The Albanians have none of the bonds that bind a nation together. Their language is a debased mixture of other tongues. They have no common blood. From Vlachs to Turks, every race is represented and unabsorbed. There is no common religion, nor history; and even the natural bond of common interests is absent. Wild, tractless stretches cut the country into separate blocks. The River Skumbi divides it roughly into two, and the Ghegs to the north of it hate and despise the less virile Tosks to the south.

To add to the other difficulties, the delegates who attended the so-called Congress of Lushnia in January, 1921, to decide on a Constitution, made four regents to hold the supreme power, a Cabinet, and a one-chamber parliament. In unskilled and inexperienced hands these became so complicated as soon to be unworkable. To organise and run a State and nation under such conditions required capable, honest, experienced administrators, and during the last four years Albania has failed to produce any.

For some years, under various names, but eventually to be known as the "Clique," there existed a secret society for the independence of Albania. When Turks, Greeks, Yugoslavs, and Italians alike had been ejected, and the danger of partition temporarily dispelled, this society absorbed a large number of the ex-officials of the Ottoman régime. Very rapidly it became the ruling class. Its members were imbued with the Ottoman lust for personal gain. Posts obtained were treated as shops or places in which the holder filled his own pockets. It was in frank imitation of the Turkish Committee of Union and Progress. It crept into every department of the State, and permeated the gendarmerie and the army; until there arose the crude situation of the Government and the administrative services of the country being directed by a secret society for its own personal ends.

Among its most prominent members was a certain Ahmed Bey Zogu, a young man with a quiet, diffident manner, full of physical courage, but lacking in moral grit. His faults were his inability to judge men and to keep his word, and a lack of decision in critical moments. He had in him, however, the seeds of patriotism and some

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real administrative ability. Having risen to Commander-in-Chief and then to Prime Minister, with the aid of the Clique, he suddenly realised the baneful influence of his friends and set to work to free himself and his country from them.

It became a clear fight between him and his late associates. Despite plots, revolts, and attempted assassinations, he kept some form of order for eighteen months, but the Clique slowly sapped his strength. In December, 1923, the Constitution came to an end, and in the new election Ahmed Bey obtained only a nominal majority, and he retired behind a Government of his nominees.

The Clique realised that the fight had become one of life and death. By every argument and guile they roused the country, and, taking advantage of the murder of one Avni Rustum, the assassin of Essad Pasha, they called on Skutari and Valona to rise. The Government could have crushed the revolt, but it showed a cowardice that can only surprise those who have been brought up to believe in the courage of the Albanians.

After emptying the Treasury in Tirana and again the Customs House at Durazzo, the Prime Minister, Ilias Bey, and most of his Cabinet, together with one of the regents, ran for Corfu. Ahmed Bey, so deserted, found that the waverers and the half-hearted had joined his enemies. The army and the gendarmerie were disloyal and unnerved by the weakness and cowardice of the Government. The Clique marched triumphant into Tirana. The attempt to rule by the one man produced by free Albania had failed.

Meanwhile, on every side there were enemies watching. Italy and Greece were for the minute prepared to maintain this buffer State, but neither had forgotten her aspirations. They wait on the failure of Albania. Yugoslavia was kept back from marching on Skutari and from annexation only by the influence of the combined Powers. America was a source of discord, for she sought oil assiduously and with little tact. Each Power had its influence on the internal situation, and a false move was liable to lead to diplomatic complications or even war.

So to-day Albania nears the parting of the ways. In three odd years of independent existence she has shown none of the qualities that can make her into a stable nation. She is bankrupt, and half her people starve. At this minute she is without a Constitution or a reasonable Government. She has been a constant cause of quarrel and irritation to her neighbours, who still wait a favourable day for partition or annexation.

She might be saved by some form of mandate assisted by a large loan, foreign controllers, and a period of limited autocracy. But this the Albanians would never allow, nor will the Powers be able to agree as to details. Yet to avoid war and its constant menaces, the Great Nations, in the near future, must come to some decision.

To make Albania into a stable compact State is beyond the power of the Albanians unaided.

RED SEA SLAVE TRAFFIC.

After being eight months in dockyard hands, undergoing a thorough overhaul and repair for foreign service, His Majesty's sloop Lupin, which was constructed during the War, was commissioned at Sheerness dockyard on July 24 by Commander R. N. Sueter for service on the East Indies station. The Government recently announced that the naval force for preventing slave traffic in the Red Sea was to be strengthened, and the Lupin, on leaving England on August 12, is to proceed to the southern end of the Red Sea for this purpose.

A CYPRUS REUNION.

A largely attended reception was held on July 22 at the Cyprus Pavilion in the British Empire Exhibition by the Commissioner for Cyprus and Mrs. Bevan. Heavy rain earlier in the afternoon prevented tea from being served on the lawn in front of the Pavilion, but excellent arrangements had been made for the accommodation of guests in the building. The reception took the form of a réunion of Cyprus officials, past and present, and others connected with the island. Opportunity was taken of the gathering to examine the exhibits and to note the progress made of late years in the development of the resources and industries of the colony. After a photograph had been taken, many of the guests adjourned to the West African section of the Exhibition to view the Cyprus Cinema Film.

Among those present were: Sir Malcolm Stevenson and the Hon. Lady Stevenson, Sir Alexander Swettenham, Sir A. H. Young and Lady Evelyn Young, Sir Frank Warner, Archdeacon and Mrs. Beresford Potter, Colonel and Mrs. Hope Biddulph, Lady Clauson, Mr. R. N. L. Michell, Colonel and Mrs. Bird, Colonel and Mrs. Luscombe, Mrs. Scott Moncrieff, Major, Mrs. and Miss Bayley, and many others.

A young Jew, believed to be a recent immigrant, has been detained by the Jerusalem police in connection with the recent murder of Dr. De Haan.

According to the Constantinople *Tanin*, a portable bungalow of 12 rooms is being sent to Turkey in sections to serve as the German Embassy in Angora.

King Edward's Hospital Fund for London has received a gift of £500, sent by H.I.H. Tafari Makonnen of Abyssinia, with an expression of his desire to assist the excellent work done by the hospitals generally in London.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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Egyptian Delta Light Railways.

At the meeting of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways Sir Montagu Sharpe, the Chairman, referred to the decrease in the first half of last year in the aggregate gross receipts from coaching and goods traffic, particularly in the former, and pointed out that so far as the coaching traffic was concerned it was mainly due to the poverty of the fellaheen and the motor car competition. Obviously it is out of the power of the railway to remedy the former factor, but the motor competition has been effectively met by drastic reductions in fares and a more frequent train service. The board has made an application to the Egyptian Government for a reconsideration of the terms of the concession regarding the method of calculating the Government's share of profits. The company is allowed 64 per cent. of its gross receipts to cover the working expenses. This arrangement, the chairman said, was entered into in 1913, when the working expenses were in the neighbourhood of 61 per cent., and would, he was convinced, have continued to be a most satisfactory one but for the intervention of the war. Since the beginning of the war the ratio of expenses to gross receipts has averaged about 70 per cent., and, added the chairman, it was evident that the existing arrangement bore very hardly upon the company.

Travancore State.

We give this week a review of the exhibits of Travancore State at the British Exhibition. While 17 Indian States are larger in point of area, Travancore ranks third among the States as regards population; and the position of the State—with its long coast line, its ample, even excessive, rainfall, and its varied conditions, ranging from hilly regions to high tableland—is such that it is not surprising that a very considerable economic advance has already been attained. As in other parts of India, industry, of course, takes a second place to agriculture in the State, and it is to further developments in connection with agriculture that the Travancore authorities most naturally look in the main for continued progress.

The Need for Markets.

Developments in the near future will be dependent to no small extent, however, on new markets, and it is in this connection that the British Exhibition should be of the greatest assistance to the State. Many of Travancore's staple products have long played an important part in the State's trade; others have so far been utilised internally; and in the case of some products it is not known for certain how far they could be of use to the manufacturer. Before the Exhibition ends in (may I take it for granted?) October, 1925, the Home manufacturer should be fully aware of the full range of the products of the State, and, let us hope, Travancore will have in view new trade outlets which will stimulate production in directions that are at present somewhat neglected.

The State's Industries.

If industry does take a subsidiary place to agriculture in Travancore, it cannot but be admitted by all who have visited the Indian Pavilion that the State's industries, such as they are, attain a very high standard of excellence. In our review attention is drawn to the exhibits of lace-work, silver ware, and ivory carving. They certainly merit high praise, particularly the lace-work and silver ware. The lace is delicate to a degree, and has just that daintiness that should charm the ladies of the Western hemisphere, while the workmanship displayed in some of the pieces of silver is literally beyond praise. There ought to be a very considerable demand for these commodities in the European markets.

Lake Copais Company.

At the meeting of the Lake Copais Company Mr. W. Sandford Poole, the chairman, emphasised the value of the company's work to Greece. He pointed out that the Copais estate—once a fever-breeding marsh—had been converted into some 60,000 acres of productive arable and pasture land. During 1923 the estate produced about 15,000 tons of cereals for consumption in Greece, besides other valuable crops, in addition to providing grazing for about 100,000 head of stock, while it was estimated that altogether the company directly supported in Greece from 12,000 to 15,000 people, and the estate was not yet fully developed. The company is entitled to 20,000 acres of the reclaimed land, and to the use of the rest of the estate rent free for a long period. The position of the respective areas, the chairman said, had, however, never been defined, the company had suffered through encroachments, and there were other rights under the concession that required clearing up. Agreements had been made, and Bills had been introduced into the Chamber of Deputies to give effect to them, but, owing to political changes, had never been ratified. The result had been that full development had been hindered, and though the company has rendered a national service to Greece, it has not yet earned a dividend on its share capital. The hope was expressed that no further time would be lost by the Government in arranging a settlement. By doing this, he said, they would show British investors that Greece intended to see that justice would be done to those who invested their capital in that country, while further delay by the Government in dealing with the company's grievances would have the reverse effect.

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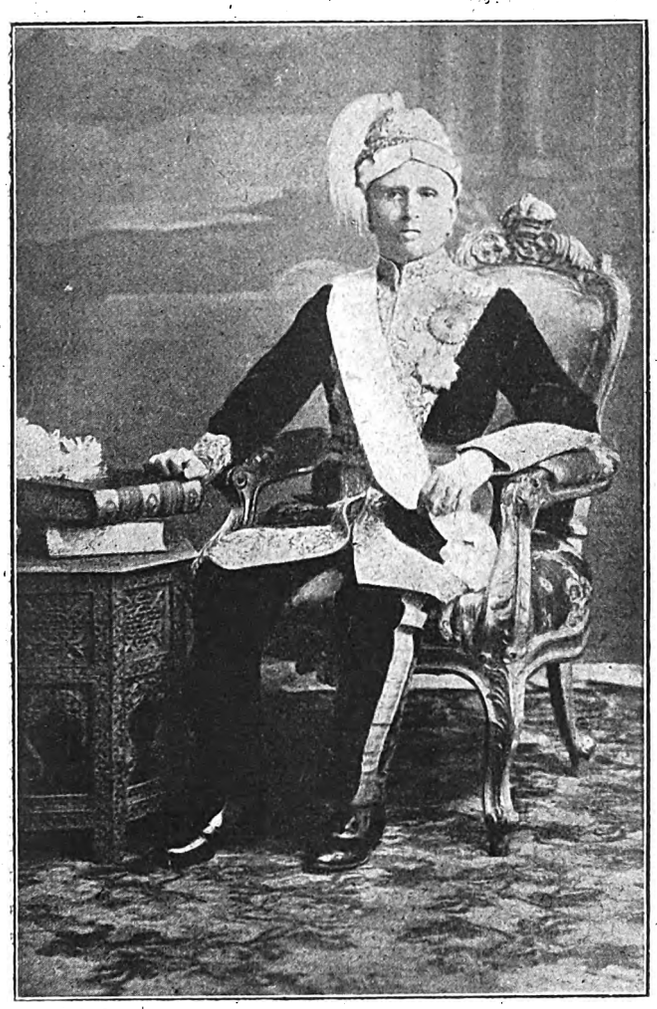
TRAVANCORE STATE AT THE EXHIBITION.

The Court of Travancore State is one of the most notable features of the Indian Pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition. It is one of the largest of the Courts devoted to the Indian States, and in general attractiveness is certainly second to none. Externally the Court presents a most artistic appearance. Above the entrance in bold relief is the Travancore royal emblem in rich blue, while the panels are adorned with scenic views of the State and a map showing the position of Travancore on the South-west



H.H. COL. SIR RAMA VARMA, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., MAHARAJA OF TRAVANCORE.

Indian coast. Within the Court the pleasing impression gained without is fittingly confirmed. While the basic products of the State, such as the coconut and its products, tea, and oils, are prominently displayed, there are also charming examples of the arts and crafts of Travancore in the shape of delicate ivory work and exquisite examples of silverware, while a large model of a house and its surroundings enable visitors who know India only from a distance to understand something of the conditions in the State.

Travancore is by no means large in point of area compared with other leading Indian States, being about 7,600 square miles; but it is the third largest State as regards population, which numbers over four millions, and the fourth largest in point of revenue. The State lies at the extreme south-west of the Indian Peninsula. Its southernmost extremity is Cape Cormorin, and it has a long coast line which includes a number of ports, chief among which is Alleppey. The physical features of Travancore are very striking. To the east are lofty mountains, while great rivers pursue their course through winding valleys, and along the coast is a long chain of backwaters linked by canals and surrounded by groves of coconut palms. During both the south-west and the north-east monsoons Travancore has a heavy rainfall, varying from 23 inches up to 200 inches.

During the reign of the present Maharaja, H.H. Col. Sir Rama Varma, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., the State has made exceptional progress. The Maharaja, who was born in September, 1857, and ascended the throne in August, 1885, has devoted his life to the promotion of the welfare of his subjects, and to this end he has introduced many notable reforms. Travancore now occupies the first place in India as regards literacy, as a result of the liberal educational policy that he has pursued. Actually, over two-thirds of the population are literate, which is a very high percentage for India. During the last thirty years there has been a very striking advance in the social and material condition of the people. Democratic institutions have been introduced, and the people have gradually been more and more associated with the administration of the country. As long ago as 1888 a Legislative Council was established, and in its present constitution and functions it is not far behind the sister Councils in India. A larger and more democratic body, known as the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, was inaugurated in 1904, while ten years previously the foundation of local self-government was laid by the establishment of Town Improvement Committees, which were later transferred into Municipalities. Measures for the further development of local self-government are under the consideration of the Legislative Council. The Maharaja is a devoted ally of Great Britain, and is ever ready to place the resources of his State at the disposal of the Paramount Power, as he did during the Great War. In recognition of the services that His Highness has rendered from time to time, the G.C.S.I. and the G.C.I.E. have been conferred on him, while in 1922 he was made Honorary Colonel of the 10th Battalion 3rd Madras Regiment.

As is the case throughout India, agriculture is the staple industry of Travancore, and more than half the population derive their livelihood almost exclusively from the soil. Rice is the principal food grain, and occupies a larger area than any other crop, while tapioca, the chief food of the poorer people, is also cultivated extensively. These crops are consumed in the State itself, while the principal crops which contribute to the export trade are coconut, tea, rubber, pepper, ginger, cardamoms, and lemongrass oil. The export trade amounts in value to about £5,000,000, and the contribution to this total of the products of the coconut palm totals half that amount, which shows very plainly the importance of the coconut palm to Travancore.

The various products of the coconut palm naturally occupy a very prominent place in the Court, and a glance at them is a veritable revelation of the varied uses to which the coconut

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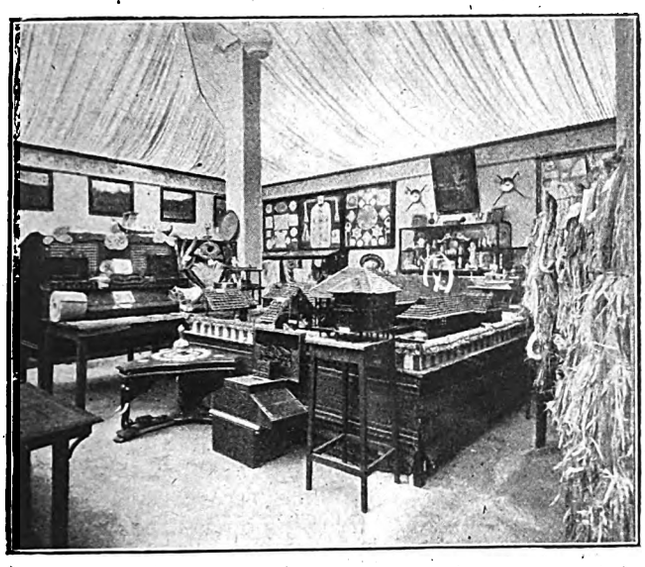
can be put. A variety of coconuts of different sizes and shapes is on view, also specimens of copra (the dried kernel), coconut oil, coir mats, coir rope, etc. A chart is displayed showing all the products of the coconut palm. There are three parts of the fruit—the husk, the kernel, and the shell, and all have their many uses. The first supplies fibre and then yarn, and is utilised for making mats and matting, machinery belting, and such things as stuffing for mattresses. The kernel, of course, yields the copra, also desiccated coconut, and from the copra is obtained oil which can be utilised for the manufacture of candles, soap, and



A GENERAL VIEW OF THE COURT.

margarine. Finally the shell is used to make buttons and fancy goods. At present about 450,000 acres are under the coconut palm in Travancore.

Tea and rubber come next to the coconut palm in the list of commercial products. Both are comparatively new and both are of growing importance. Cultivation of the tea plant dates from 1875, when the coffee crop failed; until 1895 there was only very moderate progress, but from that year onwards rapid strides have been made, and the area under tea is now about 48,000 acres. The different kinds of tea grown are on view in the Court. In 1899 the first rubber plantation was opened by the Travancore Government, and owing to the boom of 1906 there was a great extension of rubber planting, and to-day some 52,000 acres are under rubber. The various kinds of rubber and the commodities that are made from it, such as soles, mats, etc., are among the exhibits.

Special interest attaches to the exhibits of oils. Travancore produces a very large variety of oil seeds, and the oils that are obtained from them are at present mainly used in the State for illuminating purposes. So far it has not been determined as to what value would attach to them in foreign markets, and, indeed, the properties of most of the oils have not so far been fully investigated. It is believed, however, that several of them could be utilised by the manufacturers, notably *Calophyllum inophyllum*, for making disinfectants and lubricants and for other purposes. At present the production of these oils is limited, but once there is a certain export market for them the production would be greatly developed. The exhibits include specimens of the oil seeds and of crude and refined oils.

Other important crops are pepper, ginger, and cardamoms. For centuries pepper has been exported, and at the present time 48,000 acres are devoted to it. Most of the output is exported, the export trade ranging from 5,000 to 12,000 tons. The value of the trade may be illustrated by the figures for 1921-22, when 9.500 tons, worth more than £253,000, were exported. The exhibits include varieties of white and black pepper. 20,000 acres are under ginger, and in this case also the bulk of the output is exported. For 1921-22 the exports totalled about 3,750 tons, of the value of £73,000. Samples of both scraped and unscraped ginger are shown in the Court. About 50,000 acres are under cardamoms, and for 1921-22 the exports were about 6,500 tons, of the value of about £63 000. Samples of bleached and unbleached cardamoms are on view.

A word must be said as to the exhibits of farinaceous roots suitable for making flours and starches, in which Travancore is very rich. They include cassava, arrowroot, the sweet potato, and various kinds of yams. 400,000 acres are under cassava, which is the most extensively cultivated root crop.

It is hoped in the near future to start a mill with up-to-date equipment for making starch; for this purpose and other essential works of development the co-operation of capital from outside would be desirable, and, in view of the resources and undoubted possibilities of the State, it should not be a particularly difficult matter to interest foreign capitalists.

AN IVORY EXHIBIT.

The panelled walls of the Court draw attention to the important forests of Travancore. Actually about 30 per cent. of the total area of the State is reserved forest, and the average yield of timber is about 800,000 cubic feet, producing an annual revenue of about £90,000. Teak and rosewood are the principal timbers, the annual production of these two totalling about 300,000 cubic feet. Specially interesting features of the Court are two bookcases of the revolving type, showing apparently 170 books, but in reality that number of specimens of the timbers found in the State. The bookcases are made of rosewood, while the exhibits of woods also include a magnificent piece of rosewood 14 ft. 7 in. long and 3 ft. 7 in. wide.

On all sides in the Court are to be found choice examples of the small industries of Travancore.

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Lace-making, which mainly owes its introduction to the missionary societies, is now one of the chief cottage industries, and some exquisite specimens of lace-work are on view, which make it easy to understand the high reputation Travancore lace has gained abroad. Ivory carving is another important industry, and some admirable examples of the craftsman's skill are shown—notably, a beautiful model of a lady on a swing supported by two elephant tusks. Finally, reference is called for to the wonderful display of silver work. The exhibits of silver ware include a number of exquisite mirrors and trays, one tray containing examples of all the coins in use in the State.

In this brief review it has been impossible to do full justice to the exhibits in the Court, but sufficient has been said to indicate something of the extensive and varied resources of the State, and the undoubted prospects for development that exist. It remains to be added that Dr. N. K. Pillai is responsible for the charming arrangement of the Court, and he is to be congratulated on a very effective display.

THE BULGARIAN ATTAR OF ROSES INDUSTRY.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The production of attar of roses comes second in importance of the industries of Bulgaria, and is confined chiefly to the valleys of the Shipka, Balkan range, from Rahmanlare in the west to Nova Zagora in the east, where it has been carried on for many hundreds of years. The rose gardens are mostly situated on the southern slopes of the ferruginous hills. Here and there one sees gardens facing north, east, and west, but the results from gardens which do not face south are not as satisfactory as those which have that aspect, the oil or attar not having the delicate scent required. The red rose is the rose cultivated, although many of the gardens are hedged with the white rose, which is very rich in stearoptene, the oil of which is much easier to adulterate. The white rose was originally planted chiefly as a break wind for the gardens, being much hardier than the red rose; it is also very much more prolific. It comes into flower eight or ten days after the red rose has started to bloom.

The red rose bushes are grown to a height of about six feet; they are planted three feet apart in the rows, and six feet between the rows. They start to bloom in their third year, and have in many cases blossomed profitably up to their eightieth year, though twenty years is reckoned as their profitable life.

Two principal hoeings take place every year in the early spring. The pruning is very primitive, the dead wood only being cut away, and the bush is given a rest every five years by being razed to the ground. Very little manuring is done, farmyard manure being the only plant food which is used, and as there are few stalled cattle manuring is very scanty.

Up to twenty years ago all the peasants who owned about five acres of garden had their own copper alambics and distilled their own oil, and sold it to the larger producers for export. Within the last few years, however, large distilleries have been erected in all the valleys, principally with French capital, and agents of these companies purchase the blooms from the peasants and transport them to their distilleries. This has its disadvantages as well as its advantages. When the peasant distilled his own oil he picked his blooms from sunrise to 8 or 9 a.m. whilst the dew was still on them, then ceased plucking and commenced distilling, and it was reckoned that in a good season 2,800 to 3,000 kilos of roses would produce one kilo of oil, whereas under the present system of selling the blooms to the large distilleries the peasant will continue picking till 10 or 11 a.m. in order to fulfil his contract; the dew is then off the bloom, and a certain amount of evaporation has already taken place. The blooms are then handed over and weighed by the agent of the large producer, who transports them by bullock wagon to his distillery, which may be 10 or 15 kilometres distant, and by the time they reach their destination, which will be probably twelve hours after actual picking, they are faded and dry, and the loss in weight is considerable. Thus this year it is calculated by the distilleries that they required 4,250 kilos of flowers to produce one kilo of oil. This season has, however, been an exceptionally bad one, owing to the intensive heat and the lack of rain in the early spring. The quality of oil depends very much on the weather at the time of bloom and plucking. The peasant prefers to sell his flowers than to produce his oil, as the large producer makes his contracts with the peasants in January, paying them advances on the reckoned output from the date of the signing of the contract, and the final settlement being made with the last load.

In favour of the peasant system it must be said that, as every district and every different class of soil produces an oil of different quality, and the peasant very often found that his yearly production of one or two kilos did not sell readily as it did not happen to be the type required by the European market at that moment, he was therefore forced into the hands of the bank. Now he is able to get paid in full for his produce directly it is delivered; also there are not now so many types on the market. Each producer makes his own special type from flowers which may come from many different soils and districts, and the European buyer is now certain to be always able to get the same quality of oil which he has been accustomed to.

An acre of rose bushes should produce 1,600 kilos of roses annually, and if we take an average of 4,000 kilos of roses to a kilo of oil—that is, the produce of 2½ acres—at a price of 3½d. per kilo, which is the average price paid this year by the distilleries, we find that the cost would be £58 6s. 8d. for the flowers required to produce one kilo of oil; the cost of distilling and other overhead charges would be about £12 per kilo, which gives us a price of £70 6s. 8d. per kilo of pure unadulterated oil. Adulteration of oil is rife, as the European buyer will not pay the price of a pure oil and the price is fixed in Europe each year, therefore the distiller has to break his oil down and mix it with cheaper and inferior grades in order to meet Europe's price.

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Near East Markets.

DECLINE IN IVORY PRICES.

Messrs. Hale and Son report as follows on the recent ivory sales :—

The quarterly ivory sales commenced on the 22nd and concluded on the 23rd inst. They comprised 55 tons (against 32½ tons same time last year), viz., 24¼ tons Zanzibar, Bombay, Mozambique, East African and Siam, 7½ tons Abyssinian, 9¾ tons Egyptian (Alexandrian description), 11¼ tons Congo, West Coast African and Lisbon, and 2¼ tons land carriage; also ½ ton sea horse tusks and boar tusks, and a few rhinoceros horns—total 55½ tons. Of the above quantities, 1½ tons consisted of lots previously offered or indirect import, viz., 1¼ tons Congo and ¼ ton East Indian and Egyptian.

The following was the assortment of the East Indian description: 16 tons soft tusks, 1½ tons hard and a few Siam, 1¾ tons billiard ball pieces, ½ ton bagatelle pieces, 1 ton cut points for balls, ½ ton cut points off large tusks, ¼ ton under-size and defective points, etc., ¾ ton scrivelloes, ½ ton billiard and bagatelle ball scrivelloes, and 1½ tons cut hollows. During the progress of the sales about 9½ tons were bought in, viz., 1¼ tons East Indian, 4 tons Congo, 4 tons Abyssinian, and ¼ ton Egyptian.

The sales were well attended, and there was fair competition, but the demand was not so active as at the previous auctions. The demand for America was restricted, and the Continent did not take so much; the home trade bought about the usual quantity. There was a good assortment of soft large and medium tusks and ball ivory, the prices for which ruled in buyers' favour. Hard ivory was firm.

Zanzibar, Bombay, Mozambique, East Africa, and Siam.—Soft large and medium tusks declined on the average £3 to £8 per cwt., hard were firm to rather dearer. Billiard ball scrivelloes were £10 to £15 per cwt. lower, and bagatelle scrivelloes £8 to £10 per cwt. lower. Billiard ball pieces declined £10 to £15 per cwt., and bagatelle points £5 to £10 per cwt. lower. Cut points for balls and cut points off large tusks were irregular but generally £10 to £15 per cwt. below last sales' rates. Defective points and under-size points steady. Scrivelloes £2 to £3 per cwt. lower. Cut hollows were very firm to rather higher. Cores sold well. Soft bangle tusks £5 to £10 per cwt. lower. A few lots of Siam ivory met with good competition.

Abyssinian was in larger supply than for some time past. Large and medium tusks were £3 to £8 per cwt. lower. Ball scrivelloes £10 to £15 per cwt. lower and scrivelloes £2 to £3 per cwt. easier.

Egyptian.—The moderate quantity offered sold. Soft tusks at £3 to £8 per cwt. decline, and hard firm. Ball scrivelloes £10 to £15 per cwt. lower. Scrivelloes £2 to £3 per cwt. easier.

West Coast and Central African consisted principally of the Congo description. Hard large and medium tusks were firm to rather higher, soft £3 to £8 per cwt. lower. Ball scrivelloes £10 to £15 per cwt. lower. Scrivelloes £2 to £3 per cwt. easier. Hard bangle tusks firm to rather dearer.

Only a very small quantity of the Lisbon description was catalogued, and no Ambriz, Niger, or Gaboon. Sea horse tusks sold at higher prices. Rhinoceros horns firm to rather higher.

THE INDUSTRIAL POSITION IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

We have received the following from a correspondent :—

In the hardware trade the factories turning out enamel goods are profiting by Germany's inability to compete, and are working on full time. Considerable export business is being done with America, England, France, and the Far East. Employment in the iron trade is unsatisfactory, both inland and export orders having recently fallen off—the latter largely in consequence of the trade stagnation in the Succession and Balkan States. The hosiery trade has of late made a rapid recovery, and business is very brisk. A large export trade is being done with markets which were formerly the monopoly of the German hosiery trade. In leather the home trade is fairly satisfactory, and the boot and shoe factories are well employed. Export trade is slack; especially the Polish and Hungarian markets are practically closed for this country's products. The timber trade journal *Carpathia* states that prices in the inland market are maintained, and the demand for various categories of timber is such that a satisfactory autumn business may be looked forward to. Orders from France and Holland are unacceptable owing to the low prices offered. With England some business is being done, despite the strike in the building trade. The situation in the musical instrument trade in the north of Bohemia, which employs about 60,000 workers, has of late, says the *Bohemia*, considerably improved, and the industry is regaining its old markets.

THE ASIATIC REVIEW.

The July issue of the *Asiatic Review* opens with an article by Lord Winterton on the Lee Report, in which he advises its acceptance. The Indian Trade Commissioner deals with the trade statistics for the financial year ending March, 1924. He considers that commercially India is now in a strong position. The Finance Section treats of the banking difficulties in India, and the Tourist Section describes the beauties of Indo-China from the pen of Monsieur Garnier, sometime Résident Supérieur in that country. The section devoted to the East India Association proceedings deals with the Sukkur Barrage controversy and the forests and timbers of Burma.

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British Consular Reports.

V.—MOROCCO.

The following extracts are taken from the Report on the Economic and Commercial Conditions in the French Zone of Morocco in 1923-24, by Mr. C. E. Heathcote Smith, O.B.E., H.M. Consul at Casablanca :—

The landing of the French soldiers on Moorish soil in 1907 marked the commencement of the economic awakening of Morocco. A gestation interval of five years was followed in 1912 by the formal proclamation of the birth of the French Protectorate. The period since 1912 has witnessed the endeavour of an intensive development of a country which up till then had lived in primitive stagnation.

The Moors, however, are an extremely conservative race, and their staple wants of pre-French days are still in the main their wants of 1924—sugar, tea, cotton goods, cloth, hardware, soap and candles. Proportionately it is not so much the 4½ to 5 million Moors of this zone who are responsible for the undoubted increase in the imports into Morocco, but rather the Government with its programme of public works and the 70,000 Europeans and a portion of the 70,000 Jewish inhabitants—for these two categories alone display a marked tendency towards progressive economic wants.

There has been a growth, however . . . a growth which has been misunderstood, having been distorted by an exaggerated view of the 1919-1920 boom. In consequence of this, the slow rate of subsequent increase has appeared as a definite set-back, whereas to form a complete picture of the developing capacities of Morocco the years 1919-1920 should in certain respects be put as it were into a parenthesis and regarded as abnormal. Indeed, a close scrutiny of available statistics reveals a comforting proof of growth, from whatever standpoint they be analysed.

It is intended rather to labour the point of Morocco's development, since not only is she a new country, and therefore lending herself to hasty and often faulty estimates of her potentialites, but already Morocco has earned an unfortunate reputation—particularly in France. It is probable that this is an undeserved reputation, due largely to the experience, fortunate or otherwise, of speculators. In either alternative the relative resources of the country become misrepresented.

Except for an abundant barley crop in 1921 (160,000 tons exported) the last four years have on the whole been distinctly disappointing in agricultural production; 1924 opens, however, with good crop prospects, and should this year prove as fortunate as it promises to be the local crisis will be largely alleviated—for Morocco, though affected by the world depression, is by her very situation largely self-contained. Even the depreciation of the franc cuts both ways: for as the country is essentially agricultural, if there are good harvests, and crops are sold abroad, payment will correspond with the rate of the franc. Thus the agriculturist and the exporting houses suffer but little from the high franc level, although all are apt to be affected by its fluctuations. It is mainly European and native importing houses that have suffered in the so-called "crisis" in Morocco—a crisis that has affected the following classes—those with overseas connections, architects, landlords, speculators, and personnel reduced for reasons of economy. The large bulk of the peasant farmers have not even realised that a crisis exists.

Imports.

For many years we held the premier position in Morocco's trade, and as recently as 1907 we were still in the forefront with a percentage of 44 of the imports; in 1922 we held the second place with 18 per cent. of the trade, and again the second place in 1923, but our share has dwindled to 15 per cent. The position of France in Morocco's import trade has become overwhelming; she held 63 per cent. of the trade in 1922 and 67 per cent. in 1923, as against 37 per cent. in 1908.

France and England, therefore, imported 82 per cent. of the total in 1923—to a value of 521 and 119 million francs respectively. The remaining 138 millions (i.e., 18 per cent.) of the trade were shared chiefly between the United States of America (38 million), Belgium (30), Spain (17), and Italy (15). Belgian trade has shown a steady growth, American has fluctuated violently with a recent tendency to increase, Italian on the whole is making strides, while Spain has suffered a sharp decline.

In franc face values the volume of British trade has fallen more than half since the boom year of 1920, while its percentage of the whole fell from 22 to 15. Unless a very serious effort is made, Morocco will have to be written off as another lost market, except in certain textile goods.

Foreign Competition.

Trade has been lost to Great Britain in favour of the following countries in the following articles: To France: In absolutely every article without exception other than cottons and coal. To Belgium: Glassware, motor-cars, iron bars, cement, machines, steam driven, and other machine tools, matches, nails, and screws, packing and printing paper, rails. To U.S.A.: Motor-cars, agricultural machinery. To Holland: Woollens, packing paper. To Italy: Motor-cars, matches, candles. To Sweden: Nails and screws, wood (deals).

The following is an analysis of certain imports:

Alcohol.—The British only compete in whisky. British gin and eau-de-vie are too high priced.

Automobiles.—No British cars are sold, nor will any ever be sold until a complete selling organisation with full equipment of cars and spare parts are on hand, and with competent mechanics is set up here. On the 3,100 kilometres of roads in the French zone (exclusive of pistes or tracks) there were some 800 lorries and 3,000 cars circulating at the end of 1922, against 700 in 1919. The total number of British cars that have percolated into Morocco is about 10. Yet the market is a healthy one for foreign makes.

Boots and Shoes.—British trade in this article is non-existent.

Candles.—Statistics show that forecasts were unduly pessimistic; whatever may have happened

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in 1923, in 1922 we actually gained a little ground —official percentage figures of the British share are: 1919, 75 per cent.; 1920, 72 per cent.; 1921, 50 per cent.; and 1922, 58 per cent. The Italian candles are severe competitors of the British makes, and also the Fournier candles from Marseilles.

Coal.—With the opening and coming extensions of broad-gauge railways an increase to the benefit of our trade may be expected, as Cardiff coal is essential; and later on it is expected that Casablanca port will provide bunkering facilities: British coal again will profit by this.

Cotton Goods.—The consumption of cotton goods is one of the gauges of the prosperity of the country. Total figures have fallen since 1921, doubtless with the poor crops—Great Britain, despite determined onslaughts, appears well able to maintain her overwhelming superiority in white cloths, but no percentages can be given until the figures for cottons entering Morocco in the last three years through Oudjda are analysed, and this is not yet possible. Her firm hold, however, is especially with the Moroccans: very little of the cotton goods purchased by Europeans here comes from England.

The Protectorate brought a mission of French and Alsatian manufacturers here to study conditions in 1923, and these took back with them several expert Moors to advise them while experimental cloths were being produced in the French factories. Great hopes were based on these efforts, but it is not believed they will bear much fruit. One of our great assets is the extreme conservatism of the Moroccan, which should aid us in retaining in its present proportions our premier import into Morocco. Although the 1923 statistics are not yet available, the information has been supplied that we actually imported 51 millions of cotton goods through Oudjda last year, which is more than 50 per cent. of our total cotton imports. Opinions are rather to the effect that the higher tariff on the Eastern frontier will not affect the volume of British trade. Schreinered sateens of Italian and a calendered variety of Alsatian origin are now on the market and underselling British sateens. Their qualities are well spoken of, and the issue of this competition is in doubt.

Cement.—The stagnation of building has caused a big drop in cement and lime imports.

Cutlery and Glassware.—British manufacturers no longer even attempt consignments in these goods.

Hardware.—The Customs nomenclature *ouvrages en métaux* ranges from jewels and nails to steam engines. Great Britain retains a respectable position in household articles, galvanised buckets, pewter and nickel goods—all small ranges—but is driven from the market in the important categories.

In power-driven engines the United Kingdom has almost left the market. Some were re-exported out of the country (to Spain), the price preventing local sale.

Iron.—Some hoops and sheet iron still found their way from England in 1922, and there was in 1923 a fair demand for iron for public works (bridges, etc.). France and Belgium divide the market, however.

Linen Underwear.—Here French taste is catered for by France, and the Spanish, which is in many respects distinct, by Spain.

Machine Tools.—British tools do not appear on the market, because decimal measurements only are of use here, and the more elaborate devices and delicate accuracy of the French tools are preferred.

Mineral Oil, Petrol, Petroleum.—There has been a steady increase in the consumption of petroleum and gasoline in Morocco in the last few years; the growing mileage of broad-gauge railways will lessen but probably not entirely check this increase. None of this liquid arrived in transhipment from the United Kingdom in the past.

Rice.—As most other imports, this market has been very quiet. No shipments of importance come except through Marseilles and Spain.

Soap.—In soap British loss is overwhelming. In 1919 Great Britain held 80 per cent. of this market in ordinary soap; to-day she just appears with 3 per cent., while France does 96 per cent. All comes from Marseilles.

Sugar.—This is the premier import of Morocco (163 millions in 1920 and 108 in 1922), and France held 97 per cent. in 1922. Owing to large stocks during part of the year, local prices were well below Marseilles and losses made.

Tea.—The official figures show that British trade in tea, which was 74 per cent. in 1919, had dwindled to 39 and 40 per cent. respectively in 1921 and 1922. As stated in last year's report, London has been partly superseded as a result of the direct dealings of local merchants with Shanghai, transhipment of their consignments being effected at Marseilles. Statistics regarding 1923 shipments are not yet available, but we still figure for a fair share of the trade compared with 1922. The market has been overstocked throughout the year, and in some months (*e.g.*, August) no trade passed between London and Morocco.

Woollen Goods.—Sales were poor during 1923. Very little of this import comes from Great Britain. Here, again, France holds the field.

Without going into detail, it may be mentioned that several articles, owing to the overstocking of the market and the general diffidence of customers consequent on exchange, a poor crop yield, and lack of ready money, were sold locally at prices below those ruling in the exporting markets; for example, at various periods in the year 1923 this happened in sugar, tea, cottons, rice, coffee, ironmongery, and cement. With the prospect of a good crop all this would change, and a fair demand with remunerative prices will spring up. As stocks are fairly low and need replenishment, the import market of Casablanca is entering the year 1924 in a relatively healthy condition.

Exports.

Recent exports, total weights and value (in 1,000 tons and millions of francs) to all countries were:—1920, 164 (exclusive of exports to Algeria by land), 260; 1921, 358 (exclusive of exports to Algeria by land), 306; 1922, 338, 213; 1923, value 272.

To 1922 weights (the only year available) are added the 15,000 tons exported through Oudjda. The improvements made by the French in the agriculture of the country are so far insufficient to affect the total volume of exports, which have hitherto depended entirely on crop yields. This from now on will no longer be the case, as . . . . phosphates alone will soon exceed the total tonnage of exports hitherto attained even in a record year.

Harbour Works.

The port of Casablanca has been the greatest public work carried out by the French in Morocco The port, commenced in 1913 by the firm Schneider et Cie, is now nearing completion in its most arduous part. The massive grand jetty is to extend for 2,050 metres and is to-day 120 metres short of its goal. The transversal jetty has advanced 860 metres out of the 1,600 metres of its programme. Already the 150 acres of water space in the port are fully protected in all weathers. Two to three steamers can already lie alongside the grand jetty simultaneously and passengers be landed direct on to the quay. Supplementary

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docks and wharves are to be built later, and the equipment will be sufficient to handle 1,500,000 tons of merchandise per annum exclusive of phosphates. 1923 figures; including phosphates (190,000 tons), gave a total of 680,000 tons handled in the port.

The port of Saffi—for lighters—was commenced in 1923, and work is proceeding actively on the port at the mouth of the Bou Regreg—the port of Rabat-Sallee. At Fedhala, where a small lighter port has been constructed, there is a scheme to continue construction and equip the harbour as the oil fuel port of Morocco, and it is believed the necessary steps will be taken shortly. Work is also proceeding in the small Mazagan port Finally Agadir, the southernmost port of Morocco, which the Protectorate have not yet opened to commerce, is being equipped with a lighterage harbour. The opening of Agadir will, it is feared, affect the prosperity of Mogador, as the Sous, or district south of the Atlas, is at present supplied through Mogador.

The policy of spending so much money (including Mehedia-Kenitra in the north) on a row of seven small Atlantic ports, in addition to the immense work undertaken at Casablanca, is declared in many quarters to be unnecessary and extravagant in view of the modest maximum yield that Morocco can render for many years to come.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Iron Bars.—The Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of iron bars, different dimensions, for the workshops and trades schools of the Ministry during the school year 1924-1925. August 30.

Turkey.

Safes.—The Direction de l'Intendance des Postes et Telegraphes, Constantinople, invites tenders to be presented not later than September 23 next, for the supply of fifty safes. (D.O.T.)

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-97 $\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	255-257
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	370-375
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	23.89-23.91
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 $\frac{7}{16}$-1.5½
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	95⅞-96⅛
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	1010
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	340-370,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 $\frac{7}{16}$-1.5½
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	863-873
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.39½-4.39¾
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	86.55-86.65
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	148¼-148½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	101½-101⅝
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	605
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	312-315,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	—	22.75-22.95

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

TANGIER HARBOUR CONCESSIONS.

An international company, known as the Société du Port de Tanger, has been granted a concession to construct and operate a port at Tangier. The Shereefian Government is now inviting tenders for the construction of the harbour. Tenders are due to reach the Adjudications Committee at Tangier not later than 10 a.m. on November 27. British firms desirous of inspecting the conditions of contract, specifications, etc., should apply to the Department of Overseas Trade.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mandasor for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 9).

Anchor Line.—S.s. Olympia for Bombay (Liverpool, August 6).

British India Line.—S.s. Turkistan for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 2); s.s. Mulbera for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 8).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Murdock for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, August 15).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Christiania for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 1).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Algerian for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, August 16).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 9); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool September 6); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 13).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Macedonia for Bombay (London, August 8); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 6).

Prince Line.—S.s. Scottish Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, August 2).

M. Tsouderos, the new Greek Finance Minister, stated in an interview with newspaper representatives that the financial situation of the country was good (says a Reuter message). Revenue had exceeded the estimates, so that, with the proposed economies, the estimated deficit of 500,000,000 drachmæ would be covered. The Minister stated that he would oppose all increase in expenditure and would repeal the laws of the late Papanastasiou Government providing for fresh expenditure.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Irregular.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended July 17, state: —

The market during the past week has been irregular. The net changes since last Thursday are: Sakellaridis, 1.35 dols. up for July, 0.13 dols. up for November, 0.43 dols. up for January. Ashmouni, 0.55 dols. down for August, unchanged for October, 0.05 dols. up for December, 0.15 dols. up for February. Sakellaridis old crop has been very firm by reason of covering. The small actual stocks of tenderable grades and the big premiums which these grades command on the spot are not conducive to tendering, and sellers of July have preferred to buy back their contracts. As a result of this covering, the premium of July over November has widened to 567 points against 445 points a week ago. New crops have been comparatively weak; New York prices have risen over 100 points on the week, but our market has not responded. Sakel is not so bad as Ashmouni in this respect, for it must be remembered that the rise of November Sakel last week was out of all proportion to the improvement of New York prices. Demand from trade centres continues poor, in spite of reports from Manchester of rather better inquiry. The consumption figures of cotton in the U.S.A. for the month of June are: B/s 350,000 against B/s 414,000 last month and B/s 542,000 a year ago. The total since August 1, 1923, is B/s 5,325,000, against B/s 6,202,000 the previous season. The week's receipts amount to 661 krs., against exports 21,796 krs.; the stock stands at 495,790 krs.

Spot.—Total sales amount to about 2,500 B/s, of which we estimate 2,000 B/s Sakellaridis, 450 B/s uppers, and 50 B/s white. We have only had three sessions during the week, the market being closed on Monday and Tuesday owing to the native Bairam festival.

Sakellaridis.—The feature of the week has been the greatly increased demand for fully fair and fully fair to good fair; a certain amount of this cotton still remains on the market, but it is mostly poor style. Practically no business has been done in cotton above fully good fair. The price of spot as compared with contracts is perhaps slightly easier owing to the rise.

Uppers.—All grades have been dealt in during the week. The price of spot as compared with contracts is about unchanged. It is now impossible to find any cotton round about fully good fair on the market.

White.—A small business has been done in good fair to fully good fair and fully good fair to good at prices ranging about a dollar cheaper than Sakel of similar grades.

Crop, 1924.—Crop news is, on the whole, good, although complaints reach us from some districts that the bolling of Sakel is not all that could be desired. Ashmouni and Zagora are maturing well, and the prospects for these varieties are splendid. Pink boll worm is already reported, but, naturally, it is too early yet to form any opinion as to the probable intensity of the attack. Temperature is somewhat lower than last week, owing to cool winds, and this may retard growth slightly in the northern districts. Water is, generally speaking, sufficient for requirements, and the flood is coming down well.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Interest in Spot Cotton.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 23:—

Egyptian Spot.—More interest has been taken in spot cotton this week, and although the actual paper inquiry has been on modest lines, spinners have been keeping in close touch with the market. The chief impediments in the way of a further buying movement are (1) (as before) the discounts into the new crop positions, and (2) the attitude of manufacturers who persist in ignoring the recent rise in the raw material, with the result that spinners, who have been buying merely in hand-to-mouth quantities for some time now, are finding it impossible to sell their yarn except at a loss. The spot inquiry has been of a general description, and has covered practically all growths. In uppers, fully good fair at 100 to 150 on July has been in request, with here and there an isolated inquiry for good to fine, which latter cotton is conspicuous by its absence only. In Sakellaridis "50 off to 50 on" has been a popular range, but we doubt if much actual business has resulted from it. Fully good fair at 250 on to 300 on July has found support, and a small, steady demand for fine cotton continues, but the selection here is an extremely narrow one. Brown cotton still figures on the list, but buyers (when they do appear) only purchase in very small quantities. Scarto cotton has been purchased on several occasions at from 5d. to 12d. An improved business has taken place in Sudan cotton of the Sakellaridis variety, at prices varying from 23.00d. to 24.50d. The inquiry for white Sudan has been poor. C.i.f. business has shown some signs of improvement, particularly for prompt shipment, a sure sign that many spinners are short of cotton. Forwardings for the week ending 18th instant were returned as 7,871 bales. Estimated sales, 1,900 Egyptian and 800 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakellaridis are raised 80 points for fair to fully good fair, and 90 points for good and above. Brown and upper are advanced

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85 points. Fully good fair Sakellaridis to-day 24.15d.

Egyptian Futures.—The movement in this market during the past week has been rather more pronounced. July, the chief trading month of the old crop, fluctuating between 21.60 and 23.15. At one period the more buoyant tendency was counteracted by the easier American markets and some scattered liquidation, which caused a set-back from the early advance of some 50 points. Subsequent reaction to to-day's high level can be mainly attributed to the "bullish" American condition figures and to trade covering, which revealed a scarcity of contracts for the near position.

To-day's session opened quiet at about a farthing down, and showed an easier undertone, but on the appearance of Continental buying and trade covering, and with little cotton offering, the market made a rapid advance of 80 points, causing a new high level for the week, November at one time reaching 20.15. This figure was not quite maintained, and we closed 10 points from the top.

New Crop months have been subjected to some pressure, and transfers of hedges from July to November have accentuated the already considerable discount. At one time July was traded in at 320 points over November, but at the close to-day the difference stands at 300 points, or 25 points wider than at last week's close. Stocks of actual cotton in Liverpool suitable for tendering purposes are at a low ebb, and it is quite possible that a further tightening of the July position may be witnessed before the end of the month. This is rendered more probable as a considerable portion of the sales of this position have been effected on account of the trade, against cotton purchased "on call," the price of which will have to be fixed before the termination of the month, and this, of course, minimises the likelihood of a heavy tender.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Lt.-Col. the Hon. Charles Clive Bigham has been appointed a director of the Ionian Bank.

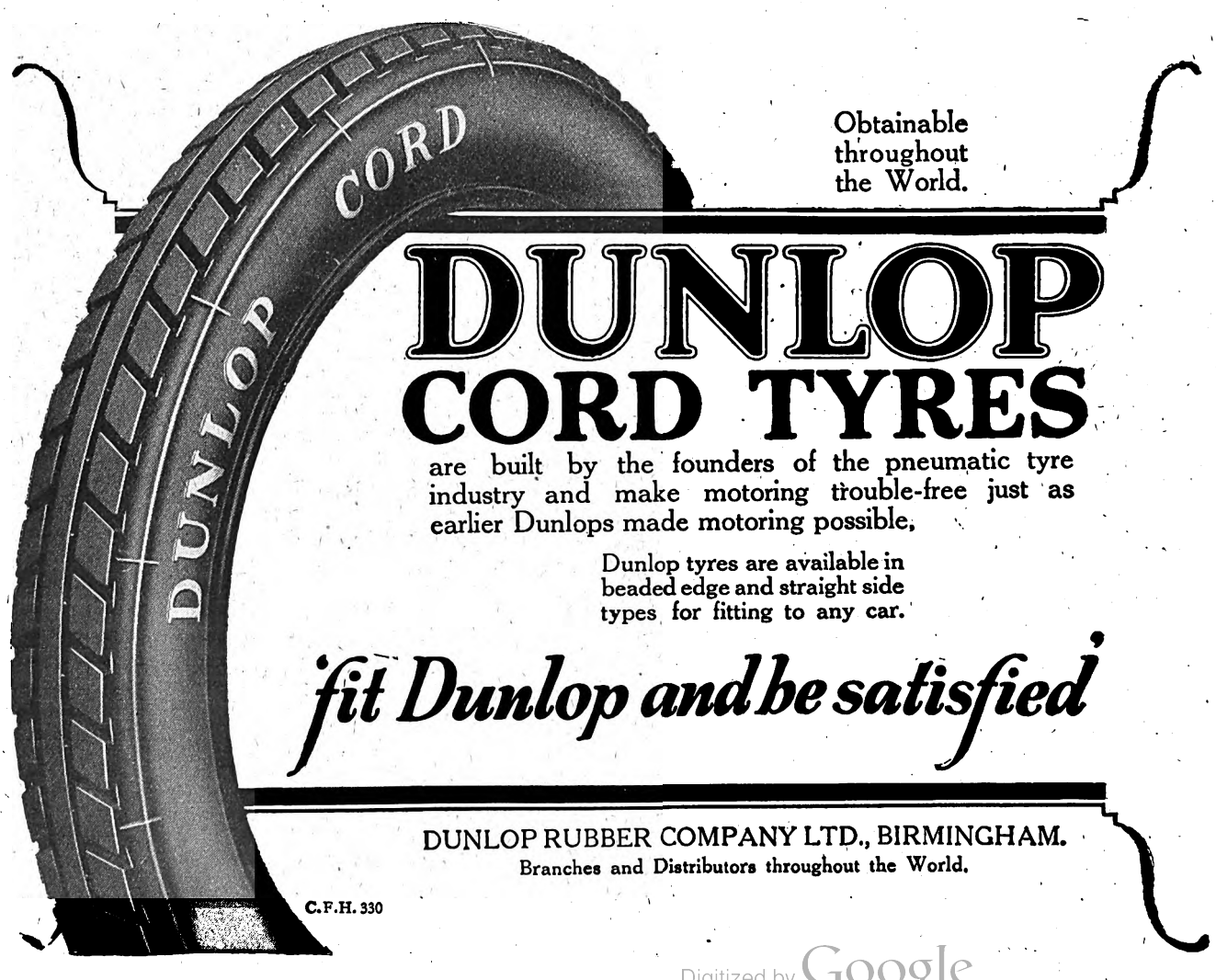
In June 33,791 tons of sugar were exported from Czecho-Slovakia, compared with 16,240 in the same month last year. From October 1 last to June 30 exports totalled 621,069 tons, compared with 360,702 tons in the corresponding period of 1923.

A Reuter message from Bucharest states that the *Official Gazette* publishes particulars of a new Customs tariff to come into effect as from August 1. The dues, which will be sensibly increased, will be payable in gold and will be calculated provisionally at the rate of 30 paper lei for 1 gold leu. To those nations which do not extend to Roumania the principle of most-favoured nation treatment the tariff will be three times as high.

Bulgaria proposes to pay Serbian claims on Bulgaria fixed by the recent agreement by handing over corn to the total value of 3,500,000 gold francs, but owing to the bad harvest she is unable to deliver more than the 400 waggon loads already sent. The shortage has been agreed to be made up by a payment in dollars or in gold francs within a specified period according to the rate on the Antwerp market, says a Reuter message from Belgrade.

The first international management congress at Prague under the patronage of President Masaryk and the honorary chairmanship of Mr. Herbert Hoover, the U.S. Minister of Commerce, concluded its deliberations on July 24. About 400 delegates were present including 54 British and American. Among the subjects under discussion were the human element in scientific management, profit sharing and co-partnership, economic limitation to the application of machinery in agriculture, uniform world currency, coal storage, etc.

H.M. Representative at Constantinople reports that, according to the local Press, a law has been promulgated which authorises the temporary duty-free importation into Turkey of boxes destined for the packing of figs and raisins for export, as well as boards for the manufacture of such boxes, and of "Tcheuzgu" and "Kaskan" yarn for the manufacture of carpets. The boxes and boards entitled to duty-free entry will be limited to a fixed annual quantity, and re-export must be effected within one year. In the case of the carpet yarn, a period of two years is allowed for the re-export of the finished goods.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Company Meetings.

LAKE COPAIS COMPANY.

Value of Company's Work to Greece.

The ordinary general meeting of the holders of shares and debenture stocks of the Lake Copais Company, Limited, was held on July 28 at Winchester House. Mr. W. Sandford Poole, the chairman, presided.

The Chairman said he was pleased to be able to submit accounts which showed much better results in sterling than those of the previous year. The difficulties in regard to exchange had been a source of continual anxiety, and it had been so unsatisfactory to sell their produce for drachmae that a great part of the company's sales during 1923 were effected in sterling. Political conditions in Greece had been extremely unsettled. It was only in April last that the people declared in favour of a Republican form of Government, so that there had not yet been much time for the nation to settle down under the new *régime*. The value to Greece of this company's work would be appreciated when he pointed out that the Copais estate, once a fever-breeding marsh, had been converted into some 60,000 acres of productive arable and pasture land. During 1923 the estate produced about 15,000 tons of cereals for consumption in Greece, in addition to other valuable crops, such as cotton and lucerne, besides providing grazing for about 100,000 head of stock. It was estimated that, including the families of tenants, their dependents, and the estate employees, the company directly supported in Greece from 12,000 to 15,000 people, and as the estate was not yet fully cultivated it was hoped to increase these figures considerably as time went on.

The company held its concession from the Greek Government, and was entitled to absolute ownership of some 20,000 acres of the reclaimed land and the use of the remainder of the estate rent free for a long period. The position of the respective areas had never been defined by the Government, in spite of frequent applications by the company for a settlement. Moreover, the company had suffered serious loss, having been deprived, through encroachments by local farmers, of the use of large areas of some of the best reclaimed lands for the 30 years since the lake was drained. There were also other rights of the company under its concession which required clearing up, and for many years negotiations for the settlement of these outstanding questions had taken place with the various Greek Governments in power. Agreements had been signed and Bills to ratify them introduced in the Chamber of Deputies, but, owing to political changes, they had never been ratified. This long delay had been a constant source of trouble and expense to the company, had hindered full development, and had prevented the company from enjoying some of the privileges promised by the concession, in the development of which vast sums had been expended. The company, by draining and reclaiming the marsh, had rendered a national service to Greece, but had as yet reaped no adequate reward; it had never earned a dividend on its share capital, having, in fact, earned much less than full interest on its debenture capital.

The directors felt assured that it was the desire of the Greek nation that all enterprise undertaken for the good of the country should receive just treatment, and they hoped that no further time would be lost by the Hellenic Government in dealing with the case on its merits and according a definite settlement to the company. By doing this they would show British investors that Greece intended to see that justice would be done to those who invested their capital in that country, while further delay by the Government in dealing with the company's grievances would have the reverse effect.

The past year's crops were harvested from 24,668 acres, as compared with 22,657 acres in the previous year, and, with the exception of lucerne hay, the yield per acre was above the average. The quality of the grain generally was excellent throughout. In the present year a total of at least 30,000 acres would probably be cultivated, against 26,683 acres last year. Under the development programme it was hoped to plough and seed before the end of the year an area of approximately 5,947 acres of the central lands which had gone out of cultivation. The net profit in Greece for the past year was £23,606, as compared with £9,626 for 1922 and £17,567 for 1921.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

The annual ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., was held on July 25 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir Montagu Sharpe, K.C. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Those shareholders who watch the traffic returns, which are periodically published in the Press, will have noticed that for the first half of the year there was a continual decrease in the aggregate gross receipts from coaching and goods traffics, particularly in coaching traffic, which at October 31 was as large as £26,500 below the returns for the corresponding period of the previous year. So far as the coaching traffic was concerned, this condition of affairs was principally due to two causes: to the poverty of the fellaheen and to motor-car competition which has arisen, principally in the Behera district, and to a considerable extent in the Gharbieh and Eastern districts. The poverty of the fellaheen is unfortunately out of our power to relieve, but it is otherwise with the motor competition.

Immediate measures were necessary to eliminate or at least to reduce this competition, and, after full consideration, the Board decided that the best course to adopt was to make drastic reductions in fares and at the same time to run a more frequent train service. This was done, special attention being given to the convenience of market passengers, for whom special market trains were run and cheap return tickets issued. I am glad to say that this policy has resulted in improved results. There was at once a large increase in the numbers of passengers carried, and the decrease in receipts to which I have referred, with the assistance of improved financial conditions in the provinces in the latter part of the year as a consequence of a good cotton crop, began slowly to disappear, and at March 31, 1924, it had been reduced by £22,200—namely, from £26,500 to £4,300.

Because of the large reduction it was necessary to make in fares, the receipts did not improve in anything like the same ratio as did the numbers of passengers carried, which were 5,135,454 for £207,169, as compared with 4,790,814 passengers for £210,562 during the previous year, but we have the satisfaction of knowing that the motor-car competition is declining.

If you will turn to page 5 of the directors' report you will find reference to an application which has been made by the Board to the Egyptian Government for a reconsideration of the terms of the concession relative to the method of calculating the Government share of profits, which, you will recollect, was that the company is allowed a fixed percentage of 64 per cent. of its gross receipts to cover its working expenses. This arrangement, as you are aware, was entered into in 1913, when our working expenses were in the neighbourhood of 61 per cent., and would, I am convinced, have continued to be a most satisfactory one but for the intervention of the war. As, however, the ratio of expenses to gross receipts has since the beginning of the war averaged about 70 per cent., it is evident that the existing arrangement bears very hardly upon the company, and your directors hope that our present application will receive the same sympathetic consideration from the Government as has hitherto been accorded to us.

I will now deal with the net revenue. If the balance of £61,599 0s. 1d. brought into the account from the previous year be deducted from the balance of £112,776 18s. shown as carried forward this year, it leaves an amount of £51,177 17s. 11d., which is our total net revenue from all sources for the year under review and available for distribution, after allowing for all fixed charges, provision for income-tax and for Government share of profits.

After careful consideration of the present somewhat unsettled conditions in Egypt, we have decided to recommend that a dividend of 4 per cent. be again declared on the Preference share capital, which will absorb £41,631 4s. and leave a balance of £9,546 13s. 11d. of the actual net revenue of the year to be added to our carry-forward. This balance, you will observe, is practically the amount of the third and final instalment of the sum which has been refunded to us by the Government, and which can no longer be included in future calculations.

The resolution was seconded by Sir William E. Garstin, G.C.M.G., G.B.E., and was carried unanimously.

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The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.

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The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application.

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Capital 24 millions Leva.
Reserves 1,705,000 Leva.

Branches:
Varna and Bourgas.

Telegraphic Address:
"Bulcomit."

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(A Limited Liability Company Registered in Athens.)

CAPITAL PAID UP - Drs. 25,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 18,103,997

The assets include securities worth £800,000, which are valued at Drs. 20,000,000; that is, at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larrissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea.

Associated Bank in London:

The Commercial Bank of the Near East, Ltd., with branch at Constantinople.

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BANK of ATHENS

Head Office: ATHENS.

ESTABLISHED 1893

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INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

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BOMBAY	HONGKONG	PEKING	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PENANG	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
CANTON	IPOH	PUKET	TIENTSIN
CAWNPORE	KARACHI	RANGOON	TOKYO
CEBU	KLANG	SAIGON	YOKOHAMA
COLOMBO	KOBE	SEMARANG (Java)	ZAMBOANGA (Philippine Islands)
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WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.
NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, Limited.

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000 Reserve Fund - - £340,000

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SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
J. H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
MEYER SASSOON, Esq.
SIR PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt.

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F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

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(AFFILIATED WITH BARCLAYS BANK LTD.

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nazareth. MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta, Gibraltar.

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Reserve - - - - - - - £720,000

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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

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RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - £2,325,000

London Agency:

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*Scindia, Sept. 30.	*Olympia, Nov. 28.

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New York to
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TELEPHONE—626

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Steamer.	Tons.	London.	M'rse'ls.	Destination.
NALDERA.....	16,000 ...	—	... Aug 1	... Bombay & Karachi
KASHMIR	9,000	Aug. 1	—	..... Straits, China, Japan
*MOLDAVIA ..	16,000 ...	Aug. 1	... Aug. 8	... Colombo & Australia
MACEDONIA .	11,000 ...	Aug. 8	... Aug. 15	... Bombay and Karachi
*MOREA	11,000 ...	Aug. 15	... Aug. 22	... Straits, China, Japan
DELTA	8,000 ...	Aug. 22	... Aug. 29	... Bombay & Karachi
KASHGAR.....	9,000 ...	Aug. 29	... —	... Straits, China, Japan
*MOOLTAN ...	21,000 ...	Aug. 29	... Sept. 5	... Colombo & Australia

* Taking passengers for Bombay via Aden.

BRITISH INDIA SAILINGS.
(Under Contract with the Govts. of India and Queensland.)

Steamer.	Tons.	M'bro.	London.	Destination.
§‖ TURKISTAN	5,203 ...	—	... Aug. 2	... Col'bo, M'dras & Cal't.
MASHOBRA...	8,288 ...	—	... Aug. 7	... East African Ports
MULBERA ...	9,100 ...	—	... Aug. 8	... Bombay and Karach
¶TAKLIWA	—	... Aug. 2	... Aug. 16	... Madras and Calcutta
§‡WOODARRA .	7,900 ...	—	... Aug. 23	... Queensland Por's
§DURENDA ...	7,241 ...	—	... Aug. 30	... Bombay and Karachi
MANTOLA.....	8,963 ...	Aug. 16	... Aug. 30	... Madras & Calcutta
¶†MORVADA ...	8,193 ...	Aug. 23	... Sept. 12	... Bombay & Karachi

Ships marked § will not take passengers.
‡ Newport, Aug. 5; Avonmouth, Aug. 13. ‖ Calling Trincomali.
† Leaving Antwerp one week after Middlesbrough date. ¶ Calls Malta.

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‡*City of York	7,844	Aug. 23	Colombo and Calcutta
‡*City of Canterbury	8,421	Sept 3	Bombay and Karachi
†City of London	8,956	Sept. 16	Bombay and Karachi
City of Exeter	9,447	Sept. 16	Colombo, Madras, Calcutta
*City of Harvard	7,071	Sept. 24	Bombay and Karachi

‡ Via Naples. * Call's Port Sudan † Via Marseilles.

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City of Lahore	10,040	Sept. 20	S'pore, H'kong, S'hai,
City of Karachi	8,040	Oct. 18	Kobe, and Y'hama

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City of Palermo	5 900	Sept. 5	Bay, East London, and Natal.

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THE NEAR EAST

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED "THE INDIAMAN."

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

No. 691.—Vol. XXVI. Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper. THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1924. Price 6d. Postage, 1d.

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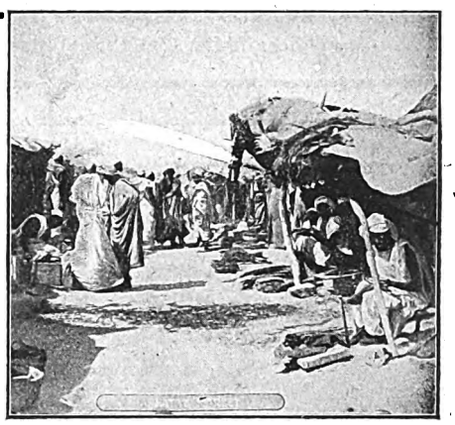

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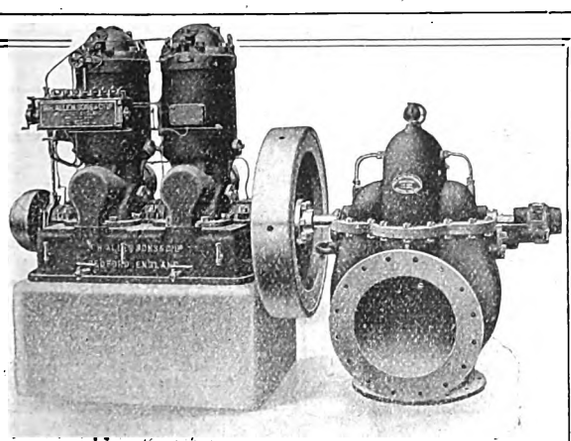

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 691—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Balkan Rumblings.

Recent news from the Balkans is of a disquieting nature. No actual incident of itself has had any special significance, but the cumulative effect of the reports is to suggest that forces making for trouble are receiving encouragement. There have been vague charges regarding collisions on the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier: a curious episode is said to have occurred on the Serbo-Greek frontier; a party of Yugoslav citizens was being escorted to the border for expulsion, when they are said to have tried to escape, and nineteen were shot. The news comes by way of Vienna, and, therefore, will need confirmation. Its importance does not lie so much in the shooting, with the stereotyped explanation of attempted escape, as in the fact that there should be, if the facts are as stated, a comparatively large number of Yugoslav undesirables in Greece calling for expulsion. The Bulgarian Government has followed up its warnings about Bolshevist activities in the country by asking the Allied Powers for permission to recruit three thousand volunteers for three months' service to deal with brigandage in Eastern Bulgaria, which, according to the official account, threatens to assume formidable proportions unless dealt with promptly. It will be understood that Bulgaria with her exiguous army will not want to deplete her forces in the west and south to take the field against brigands in the east. In the circumstance it seems inexplicable that the Allied Powers do not take the simple step of calling a round-table conference, at which Yugoslavs, Roumanians, Greeks and Bulgarians will be represented. All the facts of the situation can be discussed, and each State will be required to accept evidence which it cannot disprove or logically refute. At present charges are bandied freely, and it seems to make little difference whether they are met satisfactorily or not; they are not withdrawn, and the ill-will based on them continues. What is needed is that some higher authority should require the different Governments, if they cannot substantiate reasons for enmity, outwardly to maintain friendly relations and to abstain from pinpricks.

The New Yugoslav Ministry.

It is noticeable that no time has been lost in an attempt to discredit the Cabinet of M. Davidovitch, who has agreed to try to administer Yugoslavia for a period without recourse to fresh elections. The new Prime Minister is reported to have consented to the return of M. Raditch to Yugoslavia as the price of the support of the Croatian party in the Skupshtina. Whether this step is equivalent to an understanding between the Yugoslav Government and Moscow must at least be left an open question until there is more evidence on the subject. That M. Raditch is a visionary, and has given no indication of being able to cope with the actualities of everyday politics, is probably quite true; but there is still a distinction between his shortcomings in this respect and complete surrender to Bolshevism. A good many of M. Pashitch's opponents say that he has only to live long enough and to hold office often enough to convert everybody in Yugoslavia into red-hot Bolshevists. However that may be, it may well seem worth while from the point of view of M. Davidovitch to try to win M. Raditch to reasonableness before he is finally driven into the arms of Moscow. This cannot be done by keeping him an exile in Russia. If the Croatian leader does agree to return to Yugoslavia, he will probably understand that his personal security will depend largely on his good behaviour. Apart from the fact that he has alienated the sympathies of many of those who were opposed to M. Pashitch, he can hardly shut his eyes to the fact that a swing of the pendulum may easily bring the latter back to power, and to escape arrest he might again have to flee the country.

Yugoslavia and Macedonia.

The first task of M. Davidovitch's Government, we trust, will be to investigate the Macedonian question. Nine years ago Bulgaria's attitude in regard to the Great War hinged entirely on Serbia. She put forth certain demands which only the

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Serbian Government could meet. That Government, in spite of the Allies' appeals, refused to consider the Bulgarian demands until it was too late. The War took its course, and the effect of the Serbian refusal is scored deep in the experiences of the Serbian people, and was a serious matter to her Allies. A similar situation confronts Yugoslavia to-day. The Macedonians make certain demands of the Belgrade Government, reasonable enough from their own point of view, altogether unreasonable from the Serbian point of view, which is not necessarily endorsed in every part of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. In 1915 the Serbians proposed to make short shrift of the Bulgarians, as to-day the régime of M. Pashitch considers itself able to deal effectually with the Macedonians. They may again be mistaken, and if they are, there can be little doubt that the effect will be to give a considerable stimulus to Bolshevism and the forces of general disorder in Europe. In these circumstances Yugoslavia can hardly be surprised, if her former Allies are asking themselves whether it is necessary to allow even the Near East to be plunged into chaos because a Belgrade Government refuses to look beyond its own nose. If M. Davidovitch can solve the Macedonian question, he will remove a very grievous stain from Yugoslavia's shield.

Fomenting Trouble.

There is much truth in the statement made by the Colonial Secretary last week that in the present position in Iraq things said may not be understood there in the same sense as they are in the House of Commons. It is difficult to believe that even the most disgruntled Englishman, who has once had the responsibility of administrative office, will, merely "to get his own back," deliberately embark upon a campaign which may, directly or indirectly, foment trouble in the East, and thus endanger life and property. There can be no doubt that a very dangerous position is created when, in the present temper of the world, an Englishman lends himself to a course of action which can be taken by an Eastern people as encouragement in their opposition to Great Britain, in view of the fact that opposition, as understood by them, must be supported by force to be effective. As far as Iraq is concerned, the fact is that the country is even more split up into factions than most Eastern countries. There is the rivalry of tribe and tribe, the antagonism between tribesman and townsman, the jealousy of individual leaders; some Iraqis welcome the presence of a Shereefian king as an alternative to the civil war that would inevitably have dogged the promotion of a local chief, others resent the importation of an outsider, others again may claim to be republican at heart; some Iraqis would like to see the British withdraw entirely from the country, others would prefer them to keep their hold on the administration; to some the Turk is anathema, to others his presence in the country would hold out the prospect of personal profit. In all this there is nothing surprising; it is the aftermath of the Upheaval caused by the War. When, therefore, all the circumstances are taken into consideration there would seem to be no room for doubting that the best that could happen in the interests of the Iraqis as a whole is that they should be given time to learn their own mind, to find their own level. It is certain that in their present frame of mind they would not accord unanimous approval to any form of government. The allegation is made that the passage of the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty through the Assembly was secured by fraud or force; on the other hand, it is known that the opponents of the Treaty sought to strengthen their case by murdering or intimidating the supporters of the Treaty. In this state of affairs can it be profitable for any Briton to become a violent partisan against what is manifestly the sum total of British policy, to help the country to help itself to settle down as quickly as possible? The election of King Faisal may have been encouraged; it may be difficult to conduct the affairs of the Assembly on lines familiar to countries with long constitutional experience behind them. But no anomalies nor even irregularities can be quoted as an excuse for the serious harm that would be done by throwing Iraq again into the melting-pot when there is not the least chance of her acquiring a status of greater stability than she now has.

The Arrest of Saiyid Talib.

In furtherance of the desire to prejudice to the utmost the British position in Iraq—for this seems to be the only aim of the fishers in troubled waters and such organs in the Press as support them—a London newspaper has revived an incident already disposed of more than two years ago in the House of Commons. Saiyid Talib, at one time Minister of the Interior in the Iraq Government, was arrested three years ago and deported to Ceylon. Rightly or wrongly, he was credited with holding the view that there was not room in Iraq for both himself and the Emir Faisal, if the latter should be chosen as Sovereign, and when at a dinner in his own house he was reported to have said that two of his guests, powerful sheikhs, commanding armed forces several thousand strong, were prepared to deal with the Emir Faisal, he was taken at his word and room was made for the latter by the elimination of Saiyid Talib. The attempt is made in connexion with his arrest to make capital out of the fact that it took place as Saiyid Talib was returning from tea at the British Residency. It was undoubtedly unfortunate that the arrest was effected at the precise moment when it was; but, unless we are mistaken, the Emir Faisal was due to arrive in Iraq, and the authorities could hardly be blamed for taking Saiyid Talib at his own valuation. There is no truth in the insinuation that the visit to the Residency was in any way connected with the arrest. Saiyid Talib had a week previously invited himself to tea on this particular day, and as it was not easy in the circumstances to cancel the arrangement at such short notice, the High Commissioner contented himself with stipulating that the Residency should not be in any way involved in the arrest. Owing to a misunderstanding, however, the arrest was effected as Saiyid Talib was on his way back to the town, and every now and then it is used quite unjustifiably as the basis of a charge of bad faith against the British authorities, who are supposed to have required a decoy to enable them to lay hands on a public man residing in Baghdad and at work in the Serai every day. The charge is foolish and lacks foundation, but because it is offensive it serves the purpose of those who use it.

TO READERS OF "THE NEAR EAST."

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The Brain of India.

Affairs in India are showing for the moment something of the tranquillity appropriate to a season when all good men should be talking mainly about the weather, and doing their thinking for the next few months. It is permissible then to ask who is thinking for India, but it is not easy to find a satisfactory answer. One must look either to Whitehall or to Simla, but if brains are active in Whitehall, its official spokesmen are adepts in concealing the fact, while it is common knowledge that Simla is, as it always has been, overwhelmed with departmental detail, and barely able to keep pace with events of wider importance, much less to anticipate the developments of the future. That hard, continuous thinking is necessary will be questioned by nobody who appreciates the magnitude of the work on hand, the establishment of self-government among a mass of peoples who scarcely know what the phrase means, and whose leaders in many cases are still hankering after the old tradition of autocracy: yet the members of the Government come to the council chamber, tired with their departmental work, to deal with the urgent business of to-day, or perhaps of yesterday, and with little time, or energy, left for the problems of to-morrow.

Thinking by Proxy.

Sir Basil Blackett gave an apt illustration of the position when he recently explained the genesis of the new Taxation Committee to a critical gathering of Bombay merchants. He wants the Committee to do the thinking, because, as he tells us, whenever questions of taxation crop up, the decision has to be taken in a hurry and without regard to scientific considerations. Undoubtedly there is now ample work for a committee of the kind, but the reason is that for some years past the responsible authorities have been forced to let these thorny questions alone, until they have got into a regular tangle, which must now be scientifically straightened out. There need have been no tangle if the authorities had been able to think ahead and reach definite conclusions on the relations between central, provincial, and local finance, the effect on taxation of the permanent rise in prices, and all the other elements of the problem; but the authorities were struggling to get through the day's work, and they have now reached the point where they must do their thinking by proxy. India has been showing signs of restiveness lately over the growth of the committee habit, but, if she wants to break it she must begin by giving her Government time to think.

The Taxation Committee.

The prospects of this latest Committee strike us as somewhat dubious. The Government lays such stress on the scientific nature of the inquiry that one naturally looks for the employment of experts in the science, which is by no means an easy one to master, but, in point of fact, the Committee consists of two civil servants, a territorial magnate, and a professor of pure mathematics, to whom a practical man of business may possibly be added. The Civil Servants may, or may not, have mastered the science in the course of their work, but neither they nor the other members carry any particular weight in scientific circles, and the most probable theory of their appointment is that the word "scientific" was used merely to warn the politicians off. We should prefer to describe the Committee as a body of practical men who can be trusted to reach sound conclusions on some branches of their subject, but who are likely to be handicapped seriously by unfamiliarity with expert methods, and are perhaps more likely to recommend a further inquiry than to reach a final settlement.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Ireland Again.

Whatever one may have thought of the fundamental sense of the peace which Mr. Lloyd George's Administration made with Ireland, one doubted its permanence, if only because of the purely opportunist way in which it was secured. But such gloomy confirmation of one's forebodings as is now to be had was scarcely to be expected. The Irish Treaty was a confused Treaty, and over its interpretation Ulster is, it seems, slipping away from the rest of Ireland, and, in this country, Liberal from Conservative.

The trouble is over the Boundary Commission. The Free Staters assert under a Boundary Commission the principle of self-determination should reign absolutely (e.g., Londonderry should be incorporated with Nationalist Donegal); the Ulstermen equally emphatically state that all that is provided for under the Treaty is a mere ratification of frontiers. The Home Government, in receipt of the judicial decision that Ulster is not legally bound to appoint a member to the Boundary Commission, is resolving to-morrow whether or not to introduce a new Bill to clear up the situation.

It is all very distressing. Ulster appears to have practically whole-hearted support from the Unionist Party, while Government and Liberal circles are credited with favouring the Free State. Certainly there is not much doubt that, if, as the Government suggest, they were to go to the country on the question, they would be returned. The only thing—and apparently the hardest thing—is to restrain passion and to wait and see.

British Industry and Trade.

Orator after orator has promised us that the worst of our depression in trade is over, and that a boom is on the horizon; everyone is being told to "hang on a little longer" and things will certainly begin to improve. But, as matters turn out, it is obvious that no one man knows enough about industrial conditions in Britain to be able to generalise on the situation. Individual prophets, those foretelling prosperity and those foretelling woe, may safely be mistrusted.

Now, however, it seems that we are likely to get an authoritative opinion on the probabilities of trade in and out of this country, because the Commission of Inquiry which the Government appointed began its labours last week under the chairmanship of Sir Arthur Balfour. This Committee has both to collect information and to give advice, but it is the first which will be more widely welcomed; give the English manufacturer facts, and he is willing to draw his own deductions from them. But perhaps to the Government itself, which before it came into office was so convinced of its ability to restore the post-War industrial system, the information will be even more welcome. At the moment no jibe gets deeper home than the one which deals with the Government's failure to deal with unemployment.

The Liberal Summer School.

The Liberals are holding what they call a "Summer School," during the holding of which they are conducting what they also call an "intensive campaign" throughout the country. We know that these things are facts, because we have read about them in Liberal newspapers. But ask anyone who is not in the habit of reading Liberal newspapers, and it is a hundred to one that he will never have heard of them.

For the truth is that the Liberals are going down, down, down. Nothing has gone right for them since they put the Labour Party into office

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(which, of course, does not mean that that was not, from the point of view of the country, a very sound thing to do), and the result of the last by-election, in the Holland division of Lincolnshire, is as that of the first: Conservative and Labour close together and Liberal a bad third.

These must be melancholy days for the Liberals at holiday in their summer school. Beautiful, well-thought-out plans, exquisitely phrased panaceas—and all rejected by the democrats of this country. Still, Liberalism is at least meeting its doom with dignity.

"Simpler Spelling."

The disciples of Simple Spelling, sometimes called "The Neu Spelling," who just before the War were so feverishly active, are rearing their heads again, and a day or two ago privately visited Mr. Trevelyan, Minister of Education. They are a little less impetuous now than they used to be, and would be content for a beginning that what they call "rational spelling" should be introduced into school: the phonetic way, they say, is *the* way for the child. Thus, they suggest, "head," "breast," and "heart" should become "hed," "brest," and "hart"; and we should become enamoured of words like "askt," "dippt," "dout," "gost," "agast," "tung," and so on.

I am not well acquainted with the results of the teachings of the phonetic system, but it is claimed by these radicals that children pass in later years quite easily from the phonetic spelling to that in current use, although what is eventually aimed at is, of course, the universal employment of "rational spelling."

One does not wish to attack the advocates of this memorandum to the Ministry of Education, for they include eminent men of all shades of mental activity. But their intentions are too painfully utilitarian to command wide support: are children and foreigners the only people to be considered in the teaching of our language? And do they intend to destroy all hint of the origin of a word? And if, as they suggest, "f" should be substituted for "gh," what are they going to do with "dough"? Nay, nay, one of the beauties of the English language (a language, incidentally, for aristocrats, and not for democrats, who alone could conceivably benefit under these proposals) lies in the difficulty, the variety of its pronunciation.

Lulworth Cove.

The War Office at the moment is in very bad odour with the newspapers. Possibly it might survive this ordeal, but it has also roused Dorset opinion against it, and, in fact, all opinion which is in favour of the preservation in their natural state of what in this country are called "beauty spots." The War Office, it seems, has set its eyes upon Lulworth Cove, which is really a delightful place, for the purposes of a Tank School. Hearing in its Olympian fashion of certain ill-bred opposition to this proposal, it went to the Courts for authority to proceed with its scheme; and lost it! Now it states that in spite of this it will go on in its bungling way, and it appears that no one is empowered to stop it.

The Purchase of Titles.

A little while ago, in writing of the subject of the sale of honours, I mentioned the fact that a certain man who had paid for a knighthood and had not received it was deemed by a jury to be worthy of the return of his money. This complacent and disastrous judgment was rudely upset last week by Mr. Justice Lush, who said sternly that the citizen who is willing to put down money in order to lower the repute of the Crown must be discouraged; in other words, that fools who grope financially after a title without ever actually touching it must be punished for their folly, and that their money thus lost is not returnable at law. With which judgment every decent-thinking man is in concurrence.

An attempt has been made in this case of Colonel Parkinson to make out how unspotted the Central Conservative Office has come out of the matter, and the insinuation has been whispered that things would have turned out differently had the application been made to the National Liberal Offices. This is unworthy, for between the two parties there is nothing to choose. Abuse of the practice depends almost entirely upon the man at the head of the party.

The Bishop of Birmingham.

London on the whole is sorry at the appointment of Canon Barnes, of Westminster Abbey, to the Bishopric of Birmingham, for his personality, which is essentially modern, had made him widely favoured, and it is thought that his light may not shine so brightly in the gloomy provincial atmosphere of Birmingham.

Generally speaking, the new Bishop is considered by Churchmen as unorthodox. And there are certainly grounds for this assumption. At Cambridge it used to be a joke about him and a notable historian that the one went up a Christian and the other an atheist, and that each converted the other to his way of thinking. The fact remains that Bishop Barnes knows the ways of Agnostic thought from beginning to end. His appointment is, one feels instinctively, a sign of the moving times. To what they are moving, however, it is not for me to say.

Alter Ego.

The body of Major Imbrie, the United States Consoul, who was killed by an excited mob at Teheran, will be brought back to the United States on board the cruiser Trenton. The vessel now at Naples, is expected at Bushire on the 26th inst.

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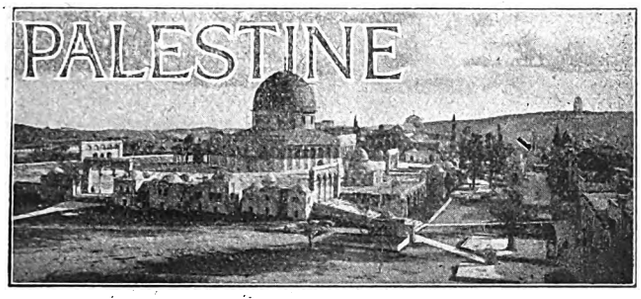
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Jerusalem, July 26.

The Political Arabs.

Things do not seem to be running smoothly and happily in the Palestinian Arab camp. At the very last moment the Secretary of the Arab Executive announced that the Seventh Arab Congress, which had been fixed to open on the 20th of this month, was postponed till some future date not yet determined. This postponement, so runs the official announcement, was decided upon in response to the requests of the Moslem-Christian Association of Haifa and Nablus, the Haifa Association preferring that the Congress should not meet until it had before it the conditions laid down in the final draft of the Anglo-Hejazi Treaty. Exactly what really lies behind this change of programme it is not possible to say; but it is obvious that a combination of causes has convinced the Arab Congress Executive that to hold a Congress at this moment is not to the real interests of their movement.

Some of these causes are clear: there is at the present moment a distinct lack of inflammatory matter with which to feed the nationalist passions, and to call forth the indignant resolutions of the Congress; furthermore, the past few weeks have seen a remarkable crop of new "Peasant Parties"—that of Hebron was reported in these columns a few weeks ago, and since then similar parties to those of Nablus and Hebron have sprung up, catering for the districts of Haifa and of Jenin, and the simple moral to be drawn is that the more substantial *fellahin* class despair of any advantage to be derived from the older Arab political methods, methods represented by the Moslem Christian Associations and the Arab Congresses, and think the readiest cure for their existing economic difficulties is to organise themselves on a local basis and attend solely, if not exclusively, to their local agricultural needs, and leave matters of higher politics to Allah alone. These "Peasant Parties" are loosely attached in sympathies and aims to the earlier "National Party" and therefore are openly at variance with the still earlier "Congress" organisation, and by no means in love with the Pan-Arab ideal, which turns on the protection and prestige of King Hussein. As other hindrances to the assembling of a solid and convincing Seventh Congress may be counted difficulties in the matter of elections and representation, and the present acrid dispute—a dispute which has even led to cases of personal violence—in the Jaffa Moslem-Christian Association (of which five members are on the Jaffa Municipality, which has accepted Rutenberg electricity, and so violated the express resolutions of the Sixth Arab Congress). Rather off the point, but worth recording, is the fact that a prominent member of the Arab Executive, Selim Abdul Rahman, the son of the Mayor of Tul-Keram, has been imprisoned on suspicion of being a leader in a local band of robbers which had recently been causing trouble in the neighbourhood; and the Arab Executive are now actively demanding "in the interests of justice" that he be released on bail.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, July 17.

Revival of a Dormant Feud.

The political changes and excitements of the last two or three years have led the casual observer to lose sight of the ancient feud between townsman and tribesman. A heated discussion in the Constituent Assembly, and the exchange of uncomplimentary recriminations between members of the two classes, culminating in the tribal deputies' leaving the building in a body, reminded all and sundry that the old feud which hampers the unity of Iraq, though dormant, still exists. Its origin dates back to the early days of Ottoman rule. The Turks regarded the tribes, organised as they were under patriarchal leaders, as a danger to their by no means strong administration; they therefore deliberately made it their policy to break the power of the big sheikhs and encourage tribal disintegration. As time passed, the townspeople were brought in on the side of the Turks, and were employed by them to assist in reducing the status of the sheikhly houses and the tribes over which they ruled.

At the time of the British occupation, the Ottoman policy underwent considerable modification. Instead of trying to scatter the tribes and diminish the power of the sheikhs, the British Government endeavoured to obtain the co-operation of the latter, and, in order to secure better administrative control, to unite the different tribes each under a single head. This policy was as remarkably successful in some areas as it was unsuccessful in others. Where the Turks had not completed their destructive work and the sheikhs still retained some authority over their tribes, co-operation secured a larger measure of law and order than had ever been known before. But in other districts, where the disintegration of the tribal elements was a *fait accompli*, the attempt to rule through men who, though descended from sheikhly families of renown, had lost all their authority, ended in catastrophe. The neglect of the urban elements, and the bol-

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stering up of men who were sheikhs only in name, had much to do with the rising of 1920.

Since the formation of the Arab Government, the townspeople have, to a large extent, come into their own again, and are now as anxious to regain all their former advantages as the tribes are to retain the privileges granted them during the British occupation, privileges, it may be noted, to which the sheikhs by their birth and position and the tribes by their numerical superiority are justly entitled.

The match which lighted the train was that section of the Draft Organic Law which lays down that "Special courts or bodies may be established by law for the following purposes: (a) The trial of members of the military forces of Iraq for offences, as prescribed by the Army Law; (b) the settlement of tribal disputes in matters of a civil and criminal nature; (c) the settlement of civil disputes which may arise between the Government and its employees, in connection with their services; and (d) the settlement of cases concerning the enjoyment of and the boundaries of land." Of the above four sub-clauses, (b) attracted most attention.

Soon after the Occupation, the British authorities observed the injustice of applying the ordinary penal code to tribes whose social customs differed so widely from those of the rest of the community, and whose behaviour was governed by a number of strict though unwritten laws handed down from time immemorial. Hence they introduced the Tribal Civil and Criminal Disputes Regulations—a step which was welcomed by the tribes, but regarded by the townspeople as only another act of favouritism towards the tribes. *Primâ facie*, the townsmen would appear to have a legitimate grievance, for under the above regulations a tribesman guilty of an offence for which a townsman would be hanged, escapes with a small fine or a term of imprisonment; but they overlook the fact that they, unlike the tribesman, are under no obligation to take life. In the case of adultery, the townsman has his remedy in the courts; a tribesman, by the law of his forefathers and by the force of public opinion, is bound, if he wishes to retain his own honour and that of his tribe, to kill the woman concerned. In such cases even the ties of blood have to be sacrificed. Among some tribes, particularly jealous of the honour of their womenfolk, the mere breath of suspicion is sufficient cause for the woman's death, while cases are known in which the attempted rape of a young, innocent girl of ten or twelve years is her death-warrant.

Again, in the matter of tribal feuds, the old law of a life for a life is followed with the utmost rigidity. However many tribesmen may be caught and hanged on the charge of murder, the feud continues until settlement is made in accordance with tribal custom—usually the payment of so many women for each life. Hence, as the extreme penalty of the law does nothing to bring about the end of such a feud, with its heavy loss of life, special legislation has been brought into existence, aiming rather at hastening an amicable settlement between the contending tribes than at the promiscuous hanging of a few individuals, who, in taking life, are only fulfilling the most compelling of tribal obligations. Townspeople, being subject to no such obligations, are naturally tried under the penal code of the country, in which the penalty of murder is death.

The discussion in the Assembly arose over the wording of the first line of the above-quoted section —"Special courts may be established by law." The tribal deputies, having suffered in the past at the hands of the townspeople, viewed with suspicion the opportunity offered by the word "may" for the cancellation of the existing Tribal Disputes Regulations. They insisted that "may" should be changed to "must," a proposal which was opposed by the town deputies. This aroused the antagonism latent between the two parties, and led to much wild talking on both sides, ending in the retirement from the Assembly of all the sheikhs in a body. At a subsequent meeting, the wording was modified to meet the wishes of the sheikhs, though other extravagant claims put forward by some of their number were rejected.

Adoption of the Organic Law.

On July 10, amid applause, the Constituent Assembly adopted the Organic Law, the terms of which they have been discussing since the acceptance of the Treaty. Remarkably few amendments have been made in the draft law as put up to the Assembly, which has now completed two of the three tasks laid before it. The examination of the new Electoral Law is being undertaken as rapidly as possible, so as to permit of the new elections being completed by November. No difficulties are expected, unless the town deputies endeavour to curtail the electoral rights of the tribes.

The Asfar Concession.

The Asfar Concession, to which reference has already been made in these columns, has been definitely approved by the Iraq Government. The period of the concession is for sixty years from the beginning of each major project, and the capital, for the opening up of the experimental areas at least, will be found by British companies interested in the development of cotton.

Departure of the High Commissioner.

Sir Henry Dobbs, High Commissioner for Iraq, left Baghdad by air on July 14, on two months' leave, accompanied by his private secretary, Captain Holt. His departure, originally fixed for soon after dawn, was delayed by high winds until the afternoon; even then the machine had to make a forced landing at Fallujah owing to the prevalence of sand-storms at Ramadi, where he was breaking his journey for the night. Sir Henry intends to travel by the Lloyd-Triestino line to Trieste, thence to London by the Orient Express, arriving on July 23.

Mr. Nigel Davidson, Counsellor, will act as High Commissioner during Sir Henry's absence.

American Airmen at Baghdad.

The American world flyers, looking extremely exhausted after their 900 mile trip in one day from Bandar Abbas, arrived at Baghdad at 5 p.m. on

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July 8. In spite of their fatigue they at once attended to their machines, making all the necessary preparations for an early start on the following morning. Unfortunately their departure was delayed by electrical trouble in the "Chicago," the aeroplane piloted by Lieut. Smith, the leader of the expedition. As soon as the fault had been traced and rectified, the three American machines left for Aleppo, escorted for part of the way by a squadron of the R.A.F.

Outrages in Baghdad.

Two outrages have been committed in Baghdad during the past week, and it is believed that one of them, if not both, may be traced to the activities of one of the secret political societies of Baghdad.

A man entered the office of Mahmoud Shahbandar, one of the leading merchants of Baghdad, and produced a letter which bore the seal of an alleged secret society. In this the immediate payment of Rs. 2,000 was demanded. Mahmoud Shahbandar, although the man was armed with a revolver, immediately grappled with him, and with the help of his employees succeeded in overpowering him. Later the police arrested four accomplices.

In the second case, the Editor of *Al Mufid*, who has been conducting in his paper a campaign against certain Government officials, was held up in a narrow lane by two effendis, one of whom shot at but missed him. Both thereupon made good their escape.

Attack on R.A.F. Officers.

Some six months ago, while taking an evening stroll outside Baghdad West, two R.A.F. officers were set upon by a gang of Arabs. Flight Lieut. Gendle was killed outright, and Flight Lieut. Pearce seriously wounded. After exhaustive investigations, rendered more difficult by the fact that the suspected persons were tribesmen, the Criminal Investigation Department obtained sufficient evidence to arrest a number of Arabs. Two of these have now been given life sentences as accessories, while several others have been ordered each to give a bond of Rs. 1,000 to be of good behaviour, or, in default, to undergo one year's imprisonment.

PERSIA.

Teheran, July 8.

The Shah.

Upon the receipt of the Shah's wire in reply to the telegram from the Ulema, mentioned in my last letter, urging him to hasten his departure for Persia, the Prime Minister telegraphed the Shah a few days ago in the same strain. Sardar Sepah, after expressing pleasure at the news of His Majesty's improved state of health, and stating that complete order prevails in the country and the situation is quite quiet, requests him urgently to return as soon as possible in the interests of the nation. In reply, the Shah wired thanking Sardar Sepah for his message, and stated that he hoped to return shortly, as soon as his improved state of health permitted, and requested the Prime Minister to keep him well advised by telegraph in the meantime.

The Commercial Agreement with Russia.

Negotiations in this connection have been dragging on for nearly three years since Taghizadeh was sent from Berlin to Moscow by the Persian Government, and, after many interruptions, due mainly to the uncompromising attitude adopted by the Soviet Government, especially with regard to Customs duties on goods coming into and going out of the two countries, the Russo-Persian Commercial Agreement was finally signed here last Thursday, 3rd instant. A luncheon was given at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs following its signature, at which were present Sardar Sepah and the Cabinet Ministers, the Russian Minister (M. Shumiatski) and the staff of his Legation, Dr. Millspaugh, and the Administrator-General of Customs. Cordial speeches of mutual thanks were delivered by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and M. Shumiatski, and hopes expressed that this fresh agreement, supplementing that of 1921, would do much to bring the two neighbouring nations still closer together, and improve the relations existing between them, as well as to increase and encourage trade between them, to their mutual advantage. The Foreign Minister stated that, of course, no commercial agreement can be complete without the settlement of the question of Customs tariff between the two countries, which has been such a sore point during the last two or three years, but a mixed committee was working at this question, and he hoped that complete agreement would shortly be reached. The next day a reception was held at the Russian Legation in town, as well as up country, to celebrate the event. The agreement must now, of course, be submitted to the Mejliss for examination and ratification, but it is not expected that any material opposition will be offered.

Murder of a Newspaper Editor.

Considerable excitement and no little consternation were caused in town, and especially in the local Fleet Street, last Thursday morning by the news that Mirzadeh Eshghi, proprietor and Editor of the newspaper *Gharni Bistom* (Twentieth Century), had been shot in his house and removed to hospital in a dying condition. One of the two assailants managed to escape, but the other was caught and taken into custody. The fact that the victim's paper had written strongly against the Republican movement and had once been suspended for its outspoken articles gave rise to the suggestion that political significance attached to the crime, but this has not yet been established. Eshghi died a few hours after being shot, and his funeral the next morning was witnessed and attended by large crowds and was made the occasion of demonstrations of sympathy and consternation. Meanwhile, the Editors of the other papers had proceeded to the Parliament, where, as they advised the Deputies, they intended to take "bast" (sanctuary) as a protest against the outrage, and they would stay until the matter was thoroughly gone into by the Government, the motive of the crime discovered, and the murderer tracked and suitably dealt with, otherwise the lives of none of them would be safe from the weapons of their political opponents and they might share their colleague's fate. A deputation also waited on the Prime Minister, who is reported to have been most annoyed at being troubled on such a small matter, and asked them why they made such a fuss over the death of one man when hundreds of their kinsmen had been recently killed on the field of battle. The Editors are still at the Mejliss to-day. An amusing aspect of the case, which tends to show the hostile attitude of the gutter Press towards British policy in Persia, is furnished by the articles published in two of the irresponsible papers accusing the British of being the instigators of the crime, and making Eshghi out to be the victim of British grasping colonial policy! And this in consequence of the murdered man having, a few days before his death, published an equally ludicrous and fantastic article depicting John Bull

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riding on the Republican donkey, and as being responsible for the agitation in favour of a Republic! Surely life is considered cheap by the British, according to these papers! It seems as if all Persia's troubles must be laid at the door of foreign intrigue, and when it is not the Russians it is invariably poor John Bull who is blamed for any untoward occurrence, and held up as a disturbing element in Persian politics! The movement in favour of a Republic was put down to British intrigue, and when it failed this was likewise our doing, as is also the delay in the ratification by the Mejliss of the Northern Oil Concession in favour of the Sinclair Company, and now comes this last equally fantastic accusation!

The Editor of another paper was arrested last night; for what reason is unknown.

A Twentieth-Century "Miracle."

The age of miracles is apparently not yet past in Persia, and the latest instance, which occurred a few days ago, has caused quite a stir in the town, and is being exploited to the utmost by the clerical party. The story goes that a water-carrier begged a few *shahis* (nickel coins) from a Bahai in a tea-shop in the name of Hazrat Abbas, the half-brother of Ali, grandson of the Prophet, with which to buy ice, and the man replied that he would give him nothing in that name, but if he asked in the name of Abbas Effendi (the late Bab) he would give him up to five tomans. No sooner had he uttered this blasphemy against a name revered in Mohammedan religious history than his eyes were seen to bulge from his head, and he became blind (the popular story asserts that his eyes actually dropped out of his head!). Whether the latter part of the story is true or not is, of course, a matter of conjecture (incredulous unbelievers tell me that the man was lighting a fire, and sparks flew into his eyes!), but eye-witnesses confirm (for the poor wretch was on view at the tea-shop, to which crowds flock) that his eyes are certainly very sore and swollen, and it may be that he is really blind. In any case, it has been hailed as a latter-day miracle, and a large number of tea-shops and other shops are decorated with carpets and other ornaments, in the Persian fashion, and illuminated at night in honour of the wonderful event, which is naturally being made the most of by the Mullahs as propaganda against the Bahais, whose rapidly increasing numbers throughout the country have made them very unpopular with the clerical party. Some Bahais were maltreated yesterday in the streets, and there was an attempt to loot some shops kept by Bahais, but nothing serious has so far occurred, though religious processions parade the streets at night, chanting and shouting, and otherwise disturbing the beauty sleep of the inhabitants in the neighbourhood!

General News.

Dr. Gilmour, a representative of the Health Section of the League of Nations, sent by the latter at the request of the Persian Government, arrived here some days ago to investigate malarial fever, which is such a scourge throughout the country, and to endeavour to prevent its spreading. Dr. Gilmour has the best wishes of the Persians in his task, as well as of the European community, very few of whom have not fallen victims to malaria.

Four of the armoured cars recently purchased in Europe for the army were driven through the streets the other day, and excited the curiosity and enthusiasm of the onlookers. Their camouflage of green and yellow is hardly suitable to this country, where trees and green fields are the exception rather than the rule.

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GREECE.

Athens, July 26.

M. Papanastasiou's Defeat.

The Papanastasiou Cabinet has resigned after a severe defeat in the National Assembly. The Government's downfall, which was not altogether unexpected, was brought about by a fierce attack of the Opposition groups, which for once presented a united front in the Assembly The shocking scenes which occurred in the Chamber twenty-four hours earlier were probably to a certain extent responsible for the Government's defeat; the main reason should be sought, however, in the numerous mistakes made by M. Papanastasiou's Cabinet during its four months' reign, also in the carelessness and maladroitness with which it handled several important internal questions, such as strikes and the naval officers' resignation.

The Ministerial crisis which ensued did not, fortunately, last long, and a coalition Cabinet under M. Themistocles Sofoulis, a member for the Island of Samos, and four years ago President of the Venizelist "Voulé," was sworn in two days later. Although the Sofoulis Cabinet is generally inspiring a good deal of confidence, the fact that four of its members are soldiers makes people feel rather uneasy. The outrageous attack by a number of warrant officers and N.C.O.'s on the printing works of the two Metaxist newspapers in Salonika clearly proves that Greece is still under the influence of the military, and it was hoped that M. Sofoulis would have selected his colleagues from the civilian camp alone.

The new Cabinet will appear in the Chamber next week and ask the Assembly's confidence. The National Assembly will subsequently adjourn until next October.

A Wrestling Match in the Chamber.

A very serious incident, which, but for the laws of this country, would have assuredly led to a duel, occurred in the National Assembly last Thursday. While smoking in the lobby during a short interval, Admiral Kakoulidis, formerly Chief of Naval Staff, was addressed by Admiral Hajikyriakos, the former Minister of Marine, who, in a rather sharp tone informed Admiral Kakoulidis that he objected to certain statements made by him in the Chamber earlier in the evening. Admiral Kakoulidis, a little stout man of a nervous disposition, apparently took exception to the ex-Minister's remarks, for he promptly attacked him with his fists. As Admiral Hajikyriakos is not a boxer, the affair eventually developed into a proper wrestling match, the two admirals rolling for a good thirty seconds on the dusty floor, raining blows at each other. On the following morning the two admirals' seconds met in order to make the necessary arrangements for the duel. As duels are by law strictly forbidden in Greece, it was at first decided that it should take place on Serbian territory. But even for this the National Assembly's permission should be obtained, seeing that both parties are deputies. It is generally believed, however, that the Assembly will decline to grant any such permission; and the incident therefore might be considered closed.

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CYPRUS.

Nicosia (undated).

Jamaica and Cyprus.

For some weeks past Greek papers have been dwelling at some length on recent events in Jamaica, and comparing the state of that island with that of Cyprus. The principal point of resemblance seems to lie in the fact that in both islands elected members of the Legislature, in order to signify their disapproval of the system which practically gives a majority to official members, or a casting vote, on occasion, to the High Commissioner on matters about which strong feelings exist, have absented themselves from the Council. The writers mostly ignore the fact that the circumstances and aims of the people in both cases are widely different, and they make no allusions to the obligations that exist in respect of the Turkish majority of 60,000 Moslems in Cyprus What they proceed to say is that ready and sympathetic attention is always given to the needs and interests of other British "Colonies" by the Home Government, the Press, and the people of England, whereas Cyprus has always been slighted and neglected. What is the cause of this? The Nicosia *Phoné* returns to the subject in a long article (July 12), under the heading: "Let us imitate the other Colonies." The reason, it says, for the unfavourable treatment meted out to Cyprus must be that other Colonies have succeeded in creating a sympathetic atmosphere in England. Hence any question of importance is taken up by one or other of the English papers, and this has a powerful effect. "We in Cyprus have never worked methodically to make our needs known to the British public. Nothing is ever heard of the island. The English public is silent because it does not know us or the nature of our claims. The English Press is silent because we have never sought to have relations with it. And on this account the Colonial Office is silent, is indifferent, and disregards us." Again, it insists on the need of a fresh start by the establishment of some influential representative body in London. This must be carried out without loss of time.

The Empire Exhibition.

Papers have noted with satisfaction the visit of the King and Queen to the Cyprus Pavilion, and the fact that Her Majesty admired the silks and embroideries of the island. Both the Queen and Princess Mary have purchased specimens of admirable lace work. It is realised at Nicosia and elsewhere that many Cyprus products only need to be better known in England, which is quite true. Reference is made to the King's visit to Cyprus in 1886 (he has paid other visits since), and to to the slow rate of progress since that date. One paper says that the thirty-eight years that have elapsed have been "years of stagnation." If His Majesty were to traverse to-day the road he travelled over from Larnaca to the capital, he would encounter similar clouds of mosquitoes, and would find a people still hopelessly overburdened by debt, and utterly disappointed in their hopes of a development, which successive High Commissioners have predicted would make Cyprus the "paradise of the East." On the other hand, however, the messages received from Wembley regarding the success of the Cyprus Pavilion, and of its attractiveness and great popularity, have had a very stimulating effect. There is a keen desire that the Government should do all in its power to back up the movements which are afoot for several co-operative undertakings.

The Outlook.

Harvest figures are not yet available. The prospect, though not very bright, is not so gloomy as some papers would represent it. Mention is seldom made of the great transformation that has been effected in Cyprus, although the process has been admittedly slow. Nor is it confessed how much more might have been done had the Greek leaders co-operated loyally with the Government instead of subordinating island interests to premature political aims, and by a policy of constant opposition and obstruction, which it has been foolishly believed would force the hand of the Government. A visitor to Cyprus to-day would find that there is a discontented section of the Greek community, which will not cease to work for "union with Greece," but that there is also a strong element which is bent on working for material progress on practical lines that may bring more prosperity to industry and agriculture. This party desires to let bygones be bygones, and that the elected representatives of the people in a new Council may co-operate whole-heartedly with the Government in their task. Among the agricultural classes there is a distinct and active movement for the development of island resources. Messages from London tend greatly to strengthen this new spirit. One thing is certain: the people want no more deputations to London. The Bill that Greek Cypriots have had to pay for successive delegations has been a very heavy one, and it is more than doubtful whether the people—town or country—would consent to throw any more "good piastres after bad" for missions now realised to be futile.

YUGOSLAV OLYMPIC TEAM.

(From Our Liubliana Correspondent.)

The closing stages of the Olympic Games in Paris and the returning of the athletes to their respective homes and countries, allowed Liubliana to accord a warm welcome to one of the Yugoslavian representatives, who had won high honour —Leon Stukelj, accredited in open competition the world's finest gymnast.

Leon Stukelj, who arrived in Liubliana on Thursday, the 24th ult., was met at the station by a crowd appreciative of his success and given a great ovation, justly deserved. His appearance was the signal for much enthusiasm, Liubliana being gratified to count Stukelj as one of its residents, paying tribute to an athlete, and ar amateur one at that, who had attained such personal success and brought credit to his nation in such a representative athletic gathering as that held at Paris this year.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

ROUMANIAN PICTURES AND SMALL TALK.

"IN GYPSY CAMP AND ROYAL PALACE: WANDERINGS IN RUMANIA." By E. O. Hoppé. With a Preface by the Queen of Rumania. Illustrated. (London: Methuen. 15s. net.)

We have to thank Mr. Hoppé for thirty-two photographs of people and scenes in Roumania. With his name attached, their technical exactness goes without saying, and almost all have real artistic value and topical interest. They are the outcome of a short trip to Roumania which he thoroughly enjoyed. He makes no profession of study and sticks steadily to the surface of things, devoting much of his space to the excellent meals he had and the pretty girls he met. He travelled under Royal auspices, and seems to have been personally conducted throughout by Prefects and other high Government functionaries, who took care that he should not see more than was good for him, and treated him in a princely manner. The result is a very naïve book, quite readable and redolent of the happy time he had when he was made much of in a lovely country, but otherwise of no particular value. H.M. the Queen of Roumania contributes a Preface of great charm. We wonder whether Mr. Hoppé observed that her praise for his book is confined to the photographs?

C. S.-W.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Grammar of Palestinian Jewish Aramaic." By Wm. B. Stevenson, D.Litt. (London: Oxford University Press. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Knights of St. John in England." By Col. E. J. King, C.M.G., F.S.A. (London: The Fleetway Press. 7s. 6d.)

"A Short Survey of Czech Literature." By Professor F. Chudoba. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd., 5s. net.)

"Rimbaud: The Boy and The Poet." By Edgell Rickwood. (London: Wm. Heinemann, Ltd., 12s. 6d. net.)

THE BALKAN COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Balkan Committee held at 63, Queen's Gate, the residence of Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, on July 25, a presentation was made on behalf of the Committee to the Right Hon. Noel Buxton, M.P., Minister for Agriculture, in recognition of his services to the Committee over a period of twenty years. The presentation took the form of a large number of books whose authors are, or have been, members of the Committee. In his speech asking Mr. Buxton to accept the souvenir of his long connection with the Committee, Sir Edward Boyle drew attention to the erroneous impression that had gained currency of the Committee's attitude to Balkan affairs, which was credited with being one-sided. He pointed out that for years past most of the members had had close affinity with Serbia and with the cause of Serbia, and that the Committee was the first public body in this country to agitate for the restoration of the Ægean Islands to Greece. Its pronouncements in favour of Bulgarian claims had been put forward not so much in the interests of Bulgaria as of the Balkans as a whole. So long as unsettlement continued in Macedonia, and Treaty promises of an outlet on the Ægean were unredeemed, there would be dissatisfaction in Bulgaria, which would react on her neighbours. The object of the Committee was to promote peace and mutual understanding among the sorely tried Balkan peoples.

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The *Blue Peter* is published monthly at its Offices, 12, St. Mary Axe, E.C. 3, and may be had from W. H. Smith & Son, Wyman & Sons, Ltd., and the chief Newsagents at home and abroad.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The India Office announces that Sir Arthur Hirtzel, Deputy Under-Secretary of State for India, has been appointed Permanent Under-Secretary of State, in succession to the late Sir William Duke.

The Selection Board announces that the following candidates have been selected on probation for the Sudan Political Service:—P. B. E. Acland, G. H. Barter, P. B. Broadbent, G. D. N. Clark, P. Coriat, G. M. Hancock, J. F. Madden, G. E. Sandars, J. F. Tiernay, and C. A. G. Wallis.

It is officially announced that Shuja ud Doula has been appointed Afghan Minister to the Court of St. James. He was for many years the Governor of Herat, and later was appointed Minister for Public Safety. As stated in The Near East of last week, the Minister is shortly leaving for London.

MEDITERRANEAN FLEET.

The following changes in the Mediterranean Fleet are announced by the Admiralty:—

Rear-Admiral William W. Fisher, C.B., M.V.O., at present Chief of Staff to Admiral Sir John M. de Robeck, Atlantic Fleet, to be Rear-Admiral in the reconstituted First Battle Squadron, Mediterranean Fleet, to date October 14. Rear-Admiral Fisher will fly his flag in the battleship Barham, which is now serving as the flagship of the Vice-Admiral commanding First Battle Squadron, Atlantic Fleet.

Rear-Admiral Hugh D. R. Watson, C.B., C.V.O., C.B.E., who has been Rear-Admiral, Fourth Battle Squadron, Mediterranean, since June last year, is to be Rear-Admiral Commanding the Third Battle Squadron, Mediterranean Fleet, and Second in Command, Mediterranean, in lieu of a Vice-Admiral, to date October 14. He will fly his flag in the battleship Iron Duke, on transfer of the Commander-in-Chief's flag to the Queen Elizabeth.

The Shah of Persia has arrived at Evian and is taking a cure. Afterwards he will leave for Teheran.

The Iraq Constituent Assembly has approved the Organic Law, and has turned its attention to the discussion of the Electoral Law. The new Parliament is expected to assemble in November.

A further donation of £600, which is being used exclusively for feeding refugee children in Greece and Armenia, has been sent to the Save the Children Fund by the Acting Agent-General for Victoria, Australia (Mr. H. G. W. Neale), on behalf of the Lord Mayor of Melbourne's Fund. This contribution makes a total of £30,100 which the people of Victoria have subscribed to the Save the Children Fund.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

August 7, 1924 (New Style).
July 25, 1924 (Old Style).
Muharram 6, 1342, A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Ab 7, 5684, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Maharaja of Tehri, Garhwal, has left London for the Continent.

The Raja of Rajpipla left London on August 3 for Paris.

Mme. Politis, wife of the Greek Minister in Paris, left London last week for France.

Viscount and Viscountess Chelmsford have left London for Friston Place, near Eastbourne.

Prince Arfaod Dowleh, Persian delegate to the League of Nations, has arrived in London.

Mr. W. Grant-Smith, the United States Minister to Albania, has arrived in London from Paris.

The Egyptian Minister left London on August 2 for Paris. Mme. Aziz Izzet has left for Switzerland.

M. Vintila Bratianu, Roumanian Minister of Finance, has concluded his visit to London and has left for Bucharest.

Shevky Pasha, Secretary of the Turkish Diplomatic Mission, has left London for Paris, and will be absent for about two months.

King Alexander of Yugoslavia is about to make a tour through Southern Serbia, Dalmatia, Bosnia, and probably Croatia.

Sir Frederick Whyte, President of the Indian Legislative Assembly, and Lady Whyte left London yesterday on their return to India.

Mr. H. E. Garle, British member of the Inter-Allied Assessment Commission in connection with Turkish reparations, has returned to London from Paris.

Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner for Palestine, and Lady Samuel, who have been staying in London, have left for Switzerland. They will return to Palestine at the beginning of September.

Sir Percy and Lady Cox, who left Constantinople when the conference on the Mosul question came to an end, arrived in London last week after a short tour on the Continent.

M. Dimitri Stancioff, Bulgarian Minister to the Court of St. James', will be received by the King on August 12, when he will present his letters of recall.

M. Nicholas Mishu, Secretary at the Roumanian Legation, has left London for Bucharest owing to the serious illness of his father, who is Comptroller of the Household of the King and Queen of Roumania.

General Lord Rawlinson has left Bombay by the s.s. China, and is due to arrive in London on August 17. He expects to return to India at the end of October. In his absence General Birdwood will take over the duties of Commander-in-Chief.

During last week the Palestine Pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition was visited by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Bishop of London. The distinguished guests had the exhibits explained to them by Major R. T. Little, manager of the Pavilion.

The Counsellor at the Persian Legation, Prince Nader Mirza Arasteh, and Princess Mirza Arasteh have left London for a tour through Belgium.

The Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Roumania are staying at 50, Grosvenor Street, Mayfair, the residence of the Roumanian Minister and Mme. Titulesco. The Crown Prince left London on August 2 for a short visit to France.

The Nawab of Bahawalpur, Viscount and Viscountess Erleigh, son and daughter-in-law of the Viceroy of India, the Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, the Hon. A. C. Chatterjee, a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, and Mrs. Chatterjee, the Hon. E. Burdon, of the Army Department, Sir Abdul Karum Fadhl Sultan, and K. B. Shatrugna Singh of Shahpura were among the passengers who left last week on the Naldera for Aden and Bombay.

OBITUARY.

The death is announced of Major-General Sir Charles Benjamin Knowles. He entered the Army in 1855, and became Major-General in 1890. He served in the Crimea in 1855, when he was wounded, receiving the medal with clasp and the Turkish Medal. He also served in the Afghan War of 1878-80, when he was twice mentioned in despatches.

The death has occurred at Hove, says the *Morning Post*, of Mrs. Rassam, widow of Mr. Hormuzd Rassam, a Chaldee Christian and British official, who played a prominent part in the events leading up to the Abyssinian War of 1868. Captain Cameron, British Consul at Massowah, and all other British subjects and missionaries having been imprisoned by King Theodore, Mr. Rassam, who was first Assistant British Political Resident at Aden, was sent to negotiate with Theodore, whose obstinacy led to war.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1924.

REMAINING IN IRAQ.

The discussion in the House of Commons last week upon British policy in Iraq amounted to very little; no new information was supplied on the Government side, and none but the old and now inapplicable objections to the construction of an independent Arab State in Iraq was raised. Perhaps it was in view of the feebleness of the opposition's case—which rested mainly on isolated hostile facts or inferences and not upon a reasoned alternative theory of action or inaction in Iraq—that the Government contented itself with a mere recapitulation of previous statements of policy. Upon the one genuine cause of anxiety that could be preferred by the opponents of British co-operation, as it is at present being pursued with the young State of Iraq—the future of Mosul—the Colonial Secretary found it impossible to offer any definite reassurance. He did not inform the House of any progress in the negotiations on Mosul, and when asked a question upon the probability of Turkish acceptance of a League of Nations' decision upon Mosul he was unprofitably silent. Other points, moreover, possibly not vital, but certainly interesting, such as those raised by Mr. Ormesby-Gore on the new Constitution in Iraq, on the international status of Iraq, on the estimates for Iraq for next year, and so on, were left unanswered; and it seems on the whole regrettable that the Government did not avail itself of the opportunity to be more explicit. For the probity of British intentions in Iraq is not so universally accepted that the mere continuance by a Labour Administration of past policy there will quieten foreign critics. We hope, therefore, that when next occasion offers, the Government will deem it fit frankly to inform the country upon the progress—and, if there be any, upon the incidents that do not make for progress—of affairs in Iraq. There can be, however, in spite of this undue reticence, no question that on main lines the Government is perfectly correct in carrying out in Iraq the policy that has been laid down by two previous Administrations. And it is gratifying to observe that even the party supporters of the Government, who might reasonably have been supposed to be likely to become easy victims to the cry that Britain was in Iraq for the benefit of oil monopolies, were practically silent while the Colonial Secretary was dissociating himself from any such idea of the *raison d'être* of British assistance to Iraq. One has only to look at present facts to realise the absurdity of the suggestion that Britain is in Iraq only because her hand is being forced by an oil trust. In recent months a syndicate other than that which is commonly connected with the Government has been successfully engaged in concession-hunting in Iraq and neighbouring countries, and is said actually to have offered to the Iraq Government more favourable terms for the fields of Mosul than has the better-known company. That Great Britain should expend money in Iraq so that rival syndicates may better wage contests between themselves and the Iraqis is too patently absurd to need further exposure. Certainly, the Navy requires the fields of Mosul for all the oil that may be found therein, but to suppose that Government action is necessary to secure it is ridiculous. And, indeed, oil companies are not interested in questions of political ownership: economic exploitation is their one and only end.

Vaguely, slowly, and learning by past mistakes, the Government must proceed to the fulfilment of its announced intention of setting up in Iraq a stable Arab State. That the difficulties in the way of this are considerable—so considerable, indeed, as to have made it impossible for the Colonial Secretary to promise definitely that Britain would evacuate Iraq at the end of the four years mentioned in the Treaty—it would be folly to deny. The fact that Britain has declared herself willing to modify certain clauses in the Anglo-Iraqi Pact is in itself a confession that severity on the part of this country may have been over-indulged, and it is possible that on the financial side of the Treaty alterations will have to be made before the minority in the Constituent Assembly which accepted the pact with Britain can make its views at all widely entertained in Iraq. At this moment a new campaign is being waged in a leading Baghdad newspaper against what is alleged to be the excessive number of British officials in the country—only eighteen being stipulated in the Treaty—and it would appear that something still remains to be done in the way of retrenchment before Britain attains any considerable avuncular popularity in King Faisal's State. Perhaps even more disconcerting news is that to be found in the letter of our Baghdad Correspondent in this issue of THE NEAR EAST, to the effect that the old feud between the tribesman and the townsman is breaking out again in Iraq, for a continuance of such a feud makes impossible the creation of any national feeling, and can facilitate but one thing—the disintegration of Iraq and the return of the Turk. We may hope that the new Cabinet, which has just been formed under Yassin Pasha al Hashimy, will do something to check this serious dichotomy. If the Treaty be reformed and administered in a generous spirit, we may yet believe that, in spite of the difficulties attending the creation of a native army and the ill-feeling at present existing between Iraqis and Assyrians and Chaldeans (the latter the most reliable of Iraq's soldiers), Britain may be able in a few years' time to see Iraq paying its way, and in due course to leave it in the knowledge that Turkey will not care lightly to attack the State of King Faisal.

One last word may be said upon the opponents of British policy in Iraq. These appear to range themselves in three categories: (1) Those who wish for a purely British administration, developing the country in British interests and for definite commercial rather than indefinite political ends; (2) those who wish to evacuate, either wholly or to retire to Basrah, leaving all the rest of Iraq to the returning Turk; (3) and those who wish to see an Arab State set up, but also the exclusion of all British officials other than those explicitly asked for as advisers by the Arabs themselves. The first two classes of thinkers seem to be answered simply by *noblesse oblige;* promises of Arab independence cannot be decently redeemed until the Arab is in a position to defend himself from those upon whom he was before the War dependent. And of the third class, it is sufficient to say that, however honestly and generously conceived their ideals may be, in practice their opposition to the Government plays directly into the hands not only of the Iraqi opponents of the Treaty, but of the extremest "intractables," the anti-British fanatics of such places as Baghdad, Muntafiq, Nejef, and Kerbela. Those

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members who voted in the Constituent Assembly against the Treaty are not, it should be remembered, those in whom any worthy future for Iraq can possibly rest—they are opposed to all ideas but those of self-advancement and reaction. In this connection there is significance in the fact that deputies even of such places once fiercely hostile to us as Arbil and Suliemaniyeh voted for the Treaty. It is of such men as these last, we are convinced, that the independent State of Iraq will consist. One thing is certain: however much the pricks may be kicked against—and agility in this practice grows increasingly less with the passage of years—Great Britain will not relinquish the task to which she has committed herself until the Iraqis who have adopted Western institutions have cultivated also a sufficiently Western spirit. Much fretful water may flow down the Tigris before this is accomplished, but if the tempers of our own successive Houses of Commons be any criterion of the hopeful results of the spread of knowledge in this question, the end will be achieved.

PEACE IN THE BALKANS.

[*The following article is an extract from a paper written by M. Vladimir Popovitch, ex-Mayor of Cettigne, and read on July 30 by Mr. Leland Buxton before the Near and Middle East Association in the house of Mrs. de Bunsen, 14, North Street, Westminster. The first part of M. Popovitch's paper dealt mainly with the condition of Montenegro, and his conclusions, of which we give here the major portion, consist of an examination of the possibility of the formation of a Balkan Federation. It will be observed that M. Popovitch writes as a Republican Montenegrin.*—Ed.]

It remains yet to be seen how far the Balkan nations are responsible for the constant disturbances in the Balkans. This responsibility is trivial, and if external intrigues and dynasties disappeared, the Balkan nations would find a way not only to agreement among themselves, but also to the creation of the Balkans into a concrete political entity in the form of a Confederation, which would very quickly become, as in the case of other confederations, a federative State.

Unless the Balkans are organised in this way they will always be a constant danger to the peace, whatever settlement is made as regards the territorial and political questions. Until all the territory in the Balkans becomes the common possession of all the Balkan nations, that part of Europe will always remain in an eruptive state.

It is difficult to establish where the rights of certain nations cease and the extent of their ambitions.

The attempt to ensure peace in the Balkans on the basis of Nationalism was and will remain a Utopia. It is impossible, because it is not established whether certain people belong to this or that nationality, and in many a case a proper division is not possible.

The Balkan Confederation will only be realised through those countries which, geographically, economically, and, what is most important, historically constitute an entity. By such a solution the question of whether Thrace, Macedonia, Bosnia, and so on belong to this or that State will be avoided.

The question is, whether it is possible to organise the Balkans in the above-mentioned way, which ultimately would lead to the forming of a Confederation, and so a Federal State.

But before we answer this question we have to examine whether the Balkan nations are willing and capable of existing as a common State.

It is said that every evil has a positive side, and in this case the five centuries of slavery that the Balkan people endured under Turkish dominion have this good consequence, viz.:—

(1) They experienced a common life.

(2) Their psychological differences were in many respects levelled, and, although these nations belong to different races and speak different languages, they have almost the same mentality—that is to say, a common psychological type, which is essential to a State for its very existence; and its existence would depend not on force of arms, but on the conviction of its citizens that such a State were necessary.

To show how far this is true, it is enough to mention that two-thirds of the inhabitants of Serbia are by their mentality more similar to Bulgarians than to us Montenegrins, although we and the Serbians speak one and the same language.

To what great extent a common slavery influenced the creation of the same type of different Balkan races, excluding Montenegro, which was always free—will be seen from the words of the former Minister of Justice, Dr. Delzevitch. As the solicitor of General Veskovitch, the former Montenegrin Minister of War charged with "high treason," Dr. Delzevitch said the following words:

"We were one (*i.e.*, Montenegrins and Serbians), but five centuries of slavery has altered your faces (Serbians), whilst five centuries of our glorious struggle for freedom have developed our mind and spirit in a different direction. The present fight between us is the fight of centuries."

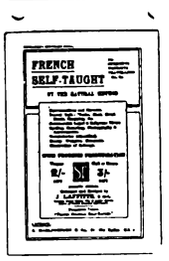
As was the case with Turkey in the Balkans, so also Austria had produced similar results in her administration of Serbians, Croats, and Slovenes, who up to the end of the World War were subjects of the Hapsburgs and are of the same race and speak the same language as the Serbians and Montenegrins.

The need for the creation of a Common State in the Balkans is therefore felt where it is most necessary—*i.e.*, among vast masses of the people.

The Balkan people has deeply rooted itself among us, especially after the World War. All of us know what the struggle for Thrace and Macedonia has cost, up to the present time, and we know in fact that others benefited from it. Meanwhile we do not wish to be instruments of anyone's policy; nor do we desire to be at the mercy of European diplomacy.

That desire for common existence is not latent, but is often, though indirectly, manifested in the present disorders and confusion, and such manifestation has as its object the removal of all opposition which is preventing the realisation of that desire and hope.

The day is not far distant when that manifestation will become evident, and when the fulfilment of its aim can no longer be checked. The question is whether this will be accomplished peacefully and by a gradual evolution, or by a revolution, and it is for the Great Powers and the League of Nations to choose which they desire—revolution and war, or a peaceful settlement.



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The procedure need not necessarily be hard or complicated, and no change of international treaty need be involved.

(1) The Great Powers should, if they want peace in the Balkans, reconcile themselves for ever with the principle, "The Balkans to the Balkan nations," and put an end to the policy of *divide et impera.*

(2) The Great Powers should cease to help practically and financially the reactionary Governments in the Balkans, and so render a great service to those people and enable them to see the establishment of that form of government which is desired by a huge majorty of the people, I mean a Republic.

(3) The most important factor for peace in the Balkans is the just, honest, and rapid settlement of the Montenegrin question.

The solution of this question by the League of Nations, which in its report of November, 1920, admits that it is still unsolved, would produce great moral and political consequences and facilitate the maintenance of peace in the Balkans as well as the just settlement of the Balkan problem.

The first result would be to create confidence in the League of Nations and International Rights, and induce a better feeling among those who are dissatisfied. as these could hope for the adjustment of their lawful claims by just means and not through force of arms.

The political consequences of this would be far greater. If in Belgrade the Serbian rulers seriously felt that the Montenegrin question should become a subject of true interest to the public, they would not hesitate one moment to prevent international intervention, since by endeavouring to come directly to terms with the Montenegrin nation they would give a quite different solution to the Montenegrin question. It must be said, however, that the Montenegrin people will accept only such a solution as will allow the convocation of a legal Montenegrin parliament chosen by a universal vote, which since December, 1915 (owing to the Austrian and Serbian occupation), was never convoked, and consequently never discussed the country's destiny.

Such a parliament would settle the future relations between Montenegro and her neighbours, as well as the form of her government. Besides this, the convocation of this legal parliament is a question which involves the honour and rights of the Montenegrin people, which, like every other people possessing an independent and internationally recognised State has the right of deciding its own destiny through it.

The just settlement of the Montenegrin question is also the key to the Croatian question, that is to say, a key to the settlement of Yugoslavia on a federal basis—which would lead ultimately to a final settlement between Serbia and Bulgaria, and last of all to the creation of the United Balkan Republics; the Montenegrin question is, therefore, the key to peace in the Balkans.

Such a settlement of the Balkan question would greatly influence conditions in Central Europe.

It is known that Hungary—whether wrongly or justly—could not easily forget her past might and greatness.

To regain what she has lost, Hungary regards the Turks, Bulgarians, and even the Albanians as her natural allies, knowing that she could rely on their help at the necessary moment. By the creation of the "United Balkan Republics," these natural allies would cease to be considered as such, and consequently the Hungarians would lose their hopes of ever restoring their previous might by force. They would be induced to pursue their claims as far as they are justifiable by an agreement and the formation of Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, and Roumania into a new organism, which organism in Central Europe would mainly benefit Hungary, which is actually its main centre.

In concluding this lecture it will not be irrelevant to mention that Russia alone of all the Great Powers formally and definitely favoured the creation of the Balkan Confederation. This was done by the Soviet Government in a memorandum delivered to the Allied Conference at Lausanne.

Public opinion in Great Britain is no doubt also in favour of the same solution.

Soon the future will show whether the policy of M. Poincaré—that known as the Balkan Central European policy—will be changed in France by the elections of May 11, 1924. This will depend mainly on a satisfactory settlement of reparations and securities. In this case the Little Entente, which is mainly composed of the three Governments, will lose very much of its importance in the eyes of Paris. This especially concerns Roumania and Yugoslavia, and undoubtedly will greatly influence peace in the Balkans, and create a confidence in those countries which by mutual agreement with their neighbours could find security for themselves.

It remains yet to be seen what would be the attitude of Italy towards the eventual creation of the United Balkan Republics, considering that Italy as well as Russia is most interested in Balkan affairs.

I state with the utmost conviction that the creation of the "United Balkan Republics" would benefit Serbia and her people more than any other nation in the Balkans, for many reasons, but particularly owing to its geographical position, in that Serbia would be the centre and axle of this new political organism.

As regards Italy, she would derive from such a solution more direct and real benefit than any other of the Great Powers.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Roumanian Mining Law.

Referring recently to the Roumanian Mining Law, I remarked, it will be recalled, that a perusal of the text of the measure scarcely served to confirm the not unfavourable view that was at first taken of it. It is true that as a result of urgent representations from the oil companies a number of very important modifications were introduced, but while the effect of these alterations was that the measure was shorn of some of its worst aspects, some of the clauses that remain will probably be found in practice to operate against a wider participation of foreign capital in the development of Roumania's mineral resources. One provision of the measure is that a concession of the State lands shall not be given to a company unless two-thirds of the directors are Roumanian citizens and a majority of the capital is Roumanian. This would seem to preclude the possibility of the formation of subsidiary concerns by the existing oil companies for the exploitation of these lands since the conditions would obviously mean that the holding company would have no real hold over the operating concern. Other clauses are no less open to exception.

A Notable Sequel.

If Roumania has failed hitherto to appreciate the incidence of the Act, the action of the O.P.Q. Syndicate is likely to be illuminating on the subject. The O.P.Q. Syndicate, which comprises five national groups, was formed for the special purpose of furthering the investment of foreign capital in the oil industry of Roumania. The syndicate has now decided to send a memorandum to the Roumanian Government stating *inter alia* that: "Careful study of the new legislation has made it clear that the Roumanian Government have no desire to develop their State oil lands in collaboration with foreign capital on generally recognised principles of adequate protection for the same. In fact, the whole tendency of late has been a campaign against foreign capital, such as precludes the possibility of the syndicate arriving at a friendly understandng with the Roumanian Government." The syndicate has, therefore, decided to withdraw their application for a concession of the State oil lands.

Shipping Competition.

The problems which confront British shipping to-day were the subject of a succinct survey by Sir Frederick Lewis at the general meeting of Furness, Withy and Co., Limited. Dealing with the question of shipbuilding, he said that the company and its associated lines had taken over some important vessels, and when circumstances justified it the company would be in the market for additional ships. At present, he explained, the company was faced with three alternatives—to build vessels in this country at uneconomical prices, to build abroad at lower prices, or to defer building until it could be done on a basis economically sound. The company has adopted the last of these courses.

The Trade Position.

Sir Frederick remarked that it might be that a trade revival was much nearer than the present outlook would justify them in believing, but he pointed out that it was an indisputable fact that on the one hand trade was still considerably short of the volume in 1913, and, on the other hand, the available tonnage was considerably in excess of requirements. At July 1 there were approximately 1,150,000 tons dw. of shipping laid up in British ports, apart from that laid up in foreign ports. "Whilst this state of things continues," added Sir Frederick, "and so long as foreign and colonial Governments are prepared, as they apparently are, to operate State-owned ships at a great loss, it is impossible to expect trade to improve to a sufficient extent to justify the building of new ships at the prices that are being quoted."

Further Rubber Restriction.

As a result of the low price of rubber during the past three months—it has averaged just under 11d. per lb.—there has been a further reduction in the percentage of standard production from 60 to 55. This is the first time that the percentage has been below 60, and it will remain to be seen whether the new reduction will have the desired result. So far it must be confessed that the operation of the reduced production scheme has been most disappointing, but its effects have, of course, been circumscribed owing to its not having universal application. The real remedy for the price of rubber is a revival of trade; when that happens long-suffering shareholders will come into their own.

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ENGINEERING TOPICS.

New Vickers Steel Furnace.

Messrs. Vickers, Limited, have just installed at their Barrow-in-Furness works a new open hearth Siemens steel furnace of the very latest type, built and designed by Wincotts of Sheffield. The capacity is between 10 and 20 tons per heat, and it is now possible to get a total output from the steel foundries at the Vickers Barrow works up to 300 tons of castings per week, ranging from a few pounds weight each to a 20-ton casting. Castings to Admiralty, Lloyd's, and Board of Trade requirements, such as ship's structural work, can now be made at the Vickers Barrow works up to the above figures. In addition, it is anticipated that a good proportion of the output will be absorbed for commercial castings. The first heat was tapped from this furnace on July 18, with very successful results, as determined from the test figures and analyses, and it will now be possible for Messrs. Vickers, Limited, to give special attention to inquiries for steel castings of every description up to 20 tons weight.

Oven Furnaces.

I have just received from a firm which specialises in the manufacture of electric furnaces a copy of their new leaflet dealing with oven furnaces—*i.e.*, furnaces with the heaters inside the chamber, exposed but yet protected. It is stated that the ideal combination is one of these furnaces equipped with automatic temperature control, automatic clapper type switch and automatic time switch. The furnace is designed to give uniformity of temperature throughout the mass of material heated. The automatic temperature control secures that the temperature attained shall always be the same, and the time switch secures that the heating time shall always be repeated, a matter which is often of the utmost importance.

The cost of running is small. Comparative costs of heating by town gas with gas furnaces of the most modern type show that gas and electricity are on a par when gas costs 2s. 10d. per thousand feet and electricity costs 1d. per unit. Besides the very great advantage electricity has over gas in uniformity of temperature throughout the mass and the avoidance of fluctuations, there is very often a very great advantage to be obtained in the absence of fumes which for many classes of work are deleterious. The cost of handling is always very much in favour of electric handling, as with automatic control the operatives have no need to watch the furnaces and are free to go on with other work. As a result of inspections and comparative tests the firm have received a number of orders for these furnaces.

World Tyre Record.

The Royal Automobile Club have issued a certificate to the Dunlop Rubber Co., Limited, in connection with the recent Brooklands trial of Dunlop cord balloon tyres fitted to a six-cylinder "A.C." car. The trial occupied two days, and, excluding the stoppage overnight, the total time during which the car was stationary was 54¼ minutes. A total distance of 1,559.6 miles was covered at an average speed during running time of 67.41 miles an hour. After the trial, the average thickness of each of the four treads varied from 14.25 mm. to 17.06 mm., compared with an average thickness in an unused tread of 19.62 mm. While the Royal Automobile Club have no actual records showing whether any other tyres have ever run without attention or damage for twenty-four hours at over sixty miles an hour, it is claimed that the present performance is unique.

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RAILWAY TRANSPORT FACILITIES IN IRAQ.

A circular has been issued by the Director of Railways, Iraq respecting facilities for the transport of goods by rail from Basrah to Bagdad. It is pointed out that for the sake of convenience, and possibly also largely on account of the habit resulting from the procedure in force before the Iraq Railways were in a position fully to offer the necessary facilities, goods are in many cases consigned to Bagdad on through bills of lading by sea and river for payment of Customs duty there. The use of such through bills is no longer a necessity, as the Iraq Railways undertake to clear consignments of all descriptions (except explosives and such dangerous goods as may be prohibited from being brought to the wharves in steamers) and transport them to the Railway Transit Khan at Bagdad North for Customs duty payment there.

Goods should be consigned now by sea to Basrah only. Every package must be clearly marked with the shipping mark as shown on the bill of lading, and if the contents of the packages bearing the same mark are not identical in quantity, quality, and value, each package must be serially numbered, and these serial numbers must be entered against the respective entries in the invoice. The bill of lading should normally be made out in favour of the consignee and endorsed to the Deputy Traffic Manager, Railways, Makinah. Bills of lading for goods shipped from Europe should be dispatched via the Haifa-Bagdad Overland Mail.

As a somewhat large percentage of consignments are received at the port damaged or short, it is essential that the Deputy Traffic Manager should be provided wih a copy of the consignor's invoice to enable him to place claims. All charges will be included in the railway invoice for payment by the consignee in Bagdad. The railways undertake to obtain certificates from the port for all shortages and damages and to make claims for the same against the ship's agents. (In order to carry this out satisfactorily the instructions above regarding marking of goods should be carefully complied with.) The railways will arrange delivery to any point in Bagdad on application. By adopting this procedure consignees ensure delivery of their goods in Bagdad more expeditiously than when a through bill of lading is used. All brokerage and commission charges are abolished. The total charges from overseas to Bagdad are reduced. Payment of railway freight, port dues, etc., is made in Bagdad at the time of delivery. There is additional safety in carriage by rail, and, finally, the advantage of the goods being in the Railway Transit Khan at Bagdad North, where they can be stored cheaply, sold, repacked if necessary, and dispatched by rail to Qasr-I-Shirin if intended for Persia.

IMPERIAL WAR RELIEF FUND.

On July 29 the offices of the Imperial War Relief Fund and the All-British Appeal were transferred from General Buildings, Aldwych, to 26, Gordon Street, Gordon Square, W.C.1 (telephone, Museum 5204). The address to which parcels of clothing for the Imperial War Relief Fund and the All-British Appeal should be sent remains the same, namely, New Hibernia Wharf, London Bridge, S.E.1.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, July 31.

Almonds.—Mogador sweets have been in better demand, and sales have taken place at 112s. 6d. ex store. Buyers anticipate 110s. ex store for new crop.

Canaryseed.—Mazagan quality has been done at 28s. ex store and 26s. 6d. c.i.f. for prompt shipment; 26s. c.i.f. is obtainable for Larache quality to arrive. Turkish is quoted at 24s. c.i.f. for August/September shipment.

Linseed.—Sales of Mazagan quality for July/August shipment have been done at £22 10s. and £23 c.i.f., but £23 10s. c.i.f. is now asked. Casablanca quality is about 10s. per ton less.

Cumminseed.—Prices rose during the week to 93s. 6d. c.i.f. for Malta, but the market is now weaker, and 90s. c.i.f. has been accepted.

Beeswax.—The tone has been quiet. The nominal value of good pure wax is £6 10s. ex store.

Barley.—Prices have further advanced. Indian afloat has been done at 38s. 6d., and at 39s. for July/August. Danube afloat to London made 38s. 9d. on sample. Parcels of Persian have been in demand, 34s. 9d. being paid, and 35s. 3d. is now obtainable. Morocco for August/September is offered at 38s. 6d.

Beans.—Less inquiry has been about from United Kingdom buyers, but the demand from the Continent has helped to sustain prices.

Maize.—A good trade has been done in Plate, but prices show little change. July/August sold at 36s. and 36s. 1½d., August-September 36s. 6d., September/October 37s. 6d. and October/November 37s. 9d. to 38s.

MARKET FOR WINDMILLS IN MALTA.

The demand for windmills in Malta is small, although in relation to the size of the country it is fair (says an American Consular report). There are 17 windmills in use, of which 15 are American and two English. None are used on the neighbouring island of Gozo. Windmills are not carried in stock but occasional orders are given for them through a Catholic priest who has introduced them. They can be obtained within three months from date of order. There is no demand for windmills equipped to produce electric current for house lighting. Windmills used generally have a fan wheel of from 10 to 12 feet in diameter, and the towers are of steel and from 30 to 40 feet high. The location of the island insures a sufficient wind most of the time. Motors are used to propel the pumps in summer when the winds are inadequate.

The average depth of wells is from 100 to 170 feet. Windmills are used exclusively for irrigation and consequently the quantity of water desired cannot be estimated. The water is delivered in storage receptacles at the surface of the ground, 5 to 10 feet distant from the wells. The receptacles average from 5 to 7 feet deep, 10 feet wide, and 15 feet long. Irrigation is generally on a small scale and no large undertakings are carried on.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended July 10 amounted to £126,553.

It is announced by the Board of Trade that quarantine has been imposed at Sofia on arrivals from Patras and Kavalla, on account of plague, but that the precautions against plague imposed in the Bulgarian capital on arrivals from Constantinople have been withdrawn.

DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows under date August 1:—

Currants.—While there is little change to note in actual market conditions, buyers continuing to show no disposition to depart from the hand-to-mouth policy followed for some considerable time past, indications point to a steady consumption in the country. The Fabian, with about 126 tons, arrived during the month. The trade passing has been centred in cleaned Pyrgos at 42s. to 44s., and better grades 46s. to 49s. Zante, bags, have been sold at 48s.; quarter-cases, 49s. Vostizza, ordinary, 50s.; good, 52s. to 55s.; better class, shade dried, 60s. to 66s. Merchants, being anxious to progress, were willing to make small concessions to effect sales. The s.s. Brescia and Lesbian have just arrived with very small cargoes. Quotations:—Pyrgos, 41s.; Pyrgos, cleaned, 41s. 6d. to 42s.; Amalias, 42s.; Amalias, cleaned, 43s.; Zante, 43s. to 48s.; Gulf and Panariti, 50s. to 54s.; Vostizza, 50s. to 66s. New Crop.—Some forward sales in cleaned Pyrgos, first half September, at 36s. 9d. to 37s. 6d. c.i.f. have been effected.

Australian Currants.—Holders realising that if they wished to compete for the business passing they would have to come into line with competitors, reduced their ideas of value, and at the lower level established more interest was taken, sales being recorded at 46s. to 55s., according to quality.

Raisins.—Valencia: A few sales of a retail nature were possible at 34s. Cape have been in better request, and a fair business has been transacted. F.A.Q., 40s. to 44s.; G.A.Q., 50s.

Sultanas.—The improved tone noticeable in the early days of the period under review developed into quite an active market in the latter part of the month, and with a renewal of Continental purchases a considerable expansion in the volume of business resulted, Smyrna fruit being almost cleared, and stocks practically exhausted. The rebate in duty coming into force after August 1 has undoubtedly been one of the contributory causes. Quite a fair trade has been passing in new crop G.A.Q., cleaned, for September shipment, at 38s. to 39s. c.i.f. Spot sales, ordinary quality, were 48s. to 52s.; good quality, 54s. to 60s.; fine quality, 63s. to 66s. Greeks also participated in the demand, and good progress was made at 48s. to 52s. Australians continue to arrive. Unfortunately, the colour being very dark is against the sale, and in order to effect progress prices have had to be accepted which are exceedingly disappointing to shippers, the range being 46s. to 50s., a few coloury lots realising 54s. to 60s.

Capes.—Sun-dried varieties, 46s. to 48s.; bleached, neglected.

Afghans.—Sales were made as follows: Reds, 35s.; yellows, 42s.

Figs.—New crop bags genuine Naturals were sold at 23s. 6d. to 24s. 6d. c.i.f., September shipment.

The Turkish battleship Yawuz (formerly the Goeben) is reported to be leaking so much as to cause anxiety lest she sink. Her bottom was at one time extensively repaired with concrete.

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British Consular Reports.

V.—MOROCCO.

(*Continued from page* 126).

Transport.

1923 saw the opening of the first broad gauge railway in Morocco, and in the course of the next few years Morocco will be rapidly endowed with a system embracing the chief towns and nearly 1,000 kilometres in length. By the law of August 21, 1920, a concession was granted to the Compagnie des Chemins de Fer du Maroc for certain lines; but before enumerating them it must be recalled that the Franco-Spanish Company holds the concession for the construction of the Tangier-Fez railway. The French, therefore, built part of their section of this railway (section Meknez to Petit-Jean), the latter town being about midway and just north of a line drawn from Rabat to Fez. and this has rendered more practical for the Chemins de Fer du Maroc the execution of their programme.

On April 5, 1923, was opened the Rabat-Kenitra-Petit-Jean-Meknes route, and the Petit-Jean-Meknes section has now been extended to Fez. Of the Rabat-Meknes line the last 54 kilometres belong to the international company, and 124 to the Moroccan railways. The Rabat-Casablanca branch (four big viaducts), is expected to be terminated early in 1925 (92 kilometres). The phosphate line (Casablanca-Sidi-el-Aidi-Kourigha) was finished in September, 1923, and is already carrying phosphates. . . . Casablanca-Marrakesh (for 60 kilometres identical with the Casablanca-Kourigha railway) is to be completed by January 1, 1926 (340 kilometres). Fez to the Algerian frontier (Oudjda and Guercif), in part a very hilly route, is estimated for 1929 or 1930 (320 kilometres). Finally a small branch will run north-east from Kenitra to join (when constructed) the Tangier-Fez at Souk-el-Arba (85 kilometres). A sum of 300 million francs is set aside for the railroads of western Morocco, but of this sum 70 million must be found by the concession holder. The first railways are being built for the most part across plains and easy country.

Again the criticism has been made—how far can the country support and utilise these expensive railways? It has been urged that light railways running seawards to the ports from inland grain districts might have proved more profitable. As a matter of fact, the network of narrow-gauge military railways—mainly constructed in the early days of the conquest—are to be pulled up and gradually relaid so as to tap rich districts on either side of the main lines. These narrow-gauge railways at present cover 1,300 kilometres, and render good service commercially. It is believed that no British companies have tendered in respect of these new railways in Morocco, although, since much work remains to be put in hand, contracts can still be concluded, if exchange conditions allow.

Further, big stations and repair shops are being erected at Casablanca, Kenitra, and Rabat. As explained above for the lines running across fairly level country—i.e., Casablanca to Sidi-el-Aidi and to Rabat, and Sidi-el-Aidi to Marrakesh—the supply of electrical energy is foreshadowed and the necessary work is being put in hand.

Macadamised roads in Morocco extend over a length of 3,000 kilometres, and secondary roads or pistes over 1,000 kilometres. All the principal centres are linked up with Casablanca, whence most of the routes extend fanwise, and shortly a trunk road connecting Fez with Marrakesh direct (at present the route passes Casablanca) will be opened. It is unlikely that railway traffic will lessen motor passenger transport for some years, as the rail service at present averages barely 65 per cent. of the speed of equivalent road transport, and, further, is more expensive. Although goods will tend to be carried by rail much more, there will be still much scope for merchandise transport by lorry, anyway between intermediate points. Roads in this zone are excellent on the whole: some 40 kilometres mostly in or near towns have been asphalted, and provision is made for similar treatment of 400 kilometres. The military have opened up a new route across the Atlas west to east—extending on to Bou Denib, but this has at present a political rather than economic importance.

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A VICE-CONSUL AT CETTIGNE.

We understand that Mr. G. E. A. C. Monck-Mason has received the appointment of Vice-Consul at Cettigné. Mr. Monck-Mason, who was born in 1886, has already seen much service in the Near East. He was appointed a student interpreter in the Levant in 1908, was Acting Vice-Consul at Uskub in 1911, and at Adana in 1911-14. In October, 1914, he was promoted to be Vice-Consul at Diarbekir. During the first three years of the War he was employed at Alexandria, Salonika, and Kavalla. He was Acting Vice-Consul at Saffi from August, 1916, and at Laraiche from August, 1917, to March, 1919. From September, 1919, to April, 1920, he was Acting Consul at Bengazi, and from May, 1920, to February, 1921, was Acting Consul-General at Salonika. He was Acting Vice-Consul at Suez from March to August, 1921, when he was appointed to the substantive post.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway for the week ended July 5 amounted to Rs. 10,61,821, making the total from April 1 Rs. 1,44,76,418. For the corresponding periods of 1923 the figures were, Rs. 10,78,572 and Rs.1,42,07,811.

A Reuter message from Simla, dated July 30, states that the week's rainfall was heavy in North-West India, being three times the normal. The rains caused a serious breach in the Bikanir-Kolarat Railway, the service having to be suspended. The track will probably not be fit for traffic for six weeks.

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Shipping Intelligence.

NEW L.M.S. STEAMER.

Built by Vickers, Limited.

The launch took place at the shipbuilding yard of Vickers, Ltd., at Barrow-in-Furness, on July 31, of the s.s. Dearne, which has been built for the London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company's Goole and Continental service. The Dearne is a first-class cargo and passenger boat. The vessel has a cellular double bottom throughout, except in boiler and cross-bunker spaces, which are fitted with ordinary floors, the floors and bottom through the vessel being specially strengthened to minimise damage when grounding. Frames are spaced 23 ins. apart and joggled, all extending to the upper deck, the frames to poop, bridge, and forecastle decks being scarphed below the upper deck to the main frames. For about 30 ft. abaft the steam, additional intermediate frames are provided between each frame below the upper deck to strengthen the ship against the effects of ice. The poop deck extends for 48 ft., the bridge deck for 88 ft., and the forecastle deck for 35 ft.

The dimensions of the vessel are as follows:—Length b.p., 240 ft.; breadth moulded, 34 ft.; depth moulded, 16 ft. 4 ins. The vessel is built in accordance with Lloyds' A1 class. In the 'tween decks there is accommodation for the transport of fifty-seven horses, and, although the vessel is primarily designed for the carrying of cargo, there is also accommodation for eight passengers on the bridge deck forward, there being two staterooms on each side of the dining saloon. This dining saloon measures about 15 ft. by 12 ft., and is reached from the deck by passages on the port and starboard sides. The saloon is tastefully panelled in bird's-eye maple and mahogany. The floor of the saloon and passages is laid with indiarubber tiling, and at one end, instead of the usual stove, there is a handsome tiled fireplace. The whole of the accommodation for passengers, officers, and engineers is fitted throughout with steam-heating appliances, the seamen's and firemen's apartments being provided with stoves.

In order to facilitate the discharging of cargo, three derricks lifting 5 tons, 7 tons, and 12 tons respectively are arranged in conjunction with three steam winches made by Messrs. Clarke, Chapman and Co. For shipping lighter cargo three derrick gaffs are provided. The steam steering gear, which is by Messrs. John Hastie and Co., is placed in a steel house on the poop, and is controlled from the bridge by a telemotor of Messrs. MacTaggart, Scott and Co.'s make. In addition to the steam steering gear, the vessel is also fitted with a right- and left-hand screw steering gear over the rudder head. A complete system of electric light is fitted throughout the ship, with clusters for cargo-working purposes, a generator of 10 kw. being provided for supplying the necessary current.

BELGRADE'S FUTURE AS A PORT.

M. A. Panitch, of the Ministry of Communications in Yugoslavia, describes in the current issue of the Belgrade Economic and Financial Review the prospects before the port of Belgrade. He says:

Near Belgrade two great rivers, the Drave and the Tissa, which feed the King Peter and the Crown Prince Alexander Canals, join the Danube, while the Sava, its most important tributary, flows into the Danube under the very walls of Belgrade. This port, quite apart from its immense historical and political importance, is of great value and no other will be able to rival it, because it stands at the entrance to the Balkan Peninsula, at the threshold of the Iron Gates. Therefore it will long remain what it has been in the past, one of the principal ports on the Danube.

Austria-Hungary tried, more than twenty years ago, to turn to her own profit the great importance which Belgrade now enjoys owing to her geographical position. For this purpose she constructed several ports of less importance on the Middle Danube and on the Lower Danube. For example, near d'Orsava, on the Roumanian frontier, at Ada-Kale, she erected a great port with a long quay and all the necessary equipment. However, she was unable to diminish the importance of Belgrade and to deflect the traffic into her own ports. The port at Orsava fell into a state of complete abandon, overgrown by grasses and bushes, even before it was handed over to Roumania.

Although before the War small and without financial means, Serbia had the intention of constructing still another port on the Lower Danube, near to Prahovo, not in order to deflect the traffic from Belgrade, but because this was the starting-point of the trans-Balkanic railway which was to go from there to the Adriatic, and of which the section Prahovo-Nish has been completed, while the remainder, which should connect up with the port at Kotor, is in process of construction. The wars prevented Serbia from realising her plans with respect to the port of Prahovo, which has only received up to the present certain equipment for the transhipment of coal from trucks into boats.

It is an incontestable fact that the port of Belgrade has before it a very great future. It is a link between East and West. Beside the navigable rivers and canals which meet there, Belgrade is connected by railways with the whole of Europe, and will soon be connected with Asia Minor and the Far East by the Bagdad Railway. The principal line of the 45th parallel passes through Belgrade, and on this line circulate the Simplon Orient Express coming from London and Paris and the Orient Express coming from Brussels and Paris through Vienna, on its way to Constantinople and Athens. Belgrade is the capital of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, which has 12,000,000 inhabitants. The city has about 160,000 inhabitants, but judging by its rapid growth, it will no doubt reach half a million in a few years. The city is not only a cultural and industrial centre, but also a great economic and commercial one, where enormous quantities of merchandise are concentrated for export and import and the needs of the greatest part of the Kingdom are supplied. Meanwhile, the thing that renders Belgrade a place of importance for all time is its geographical situation, unique in the whole length of the Danube, and the best adapted for the creation of a port of entrance and transit as well as a base for the whole traffic which will be developed between the West, the Balkan Peninsula and the East.

Taking into account the fact that in the great towns of the West four tons of goods are consumed per inhabitant in the year, it can be calculated that Belgrade already consumes 600 trucks or 6,000 tons per day, which makes about 2,160,000

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tons a year. In a few years, because of the growth of the population, ten times this amount will probably be required. According to our statistics, in the course of last year, 63,730 trucks of goods arrived at the railway station of Belgrade, while 45,266 wagons were despatched from Belgrade. This amounts to 1,071 tons of traffic daily. Though the ports on the Sava and the Danube are not yet built nor equipped, the traffic comes nevertheless to a thousand tons per day: but as soon as these ports are built, and even if in the beginning they are equipped to deal only with the local traffic, this quantity will increase rapidly. Wth the transit and storage of goods from other lands, the tonnage of the merchandise sent to the port of Belgrade, or passing through it, will increase tenfold.

Facing Belgrade are the plains of the Banat and Srem, which are very fertile, and are the granary of the country: a little further up the Sava and down the Danube, Posavina and Podunavlje are equally fertile. All the products, such as the wheat, prunes, maize and vegetables, will pass through Belgrade, and will be sorted there, then dispatched mainly by water, this being the cheapest way of bringing them to the world markets, where they will be disposed of to great advantage. Besides, the distant provinces will direct their traffic towards these ports. In a year or two Belgrade will also be connected with the narrow gauge railway system (0.75 cm.), the only system in Bosnia, so that the coal, ores, and wood of this province will come directly to it. This traffic will assume large proportions, as soon as the projected line of the Adriatic Railway is constructed.

According to the new general plan of Belgrade made by well-known Yugoslav and foreign engineers, which will shortly be approved by the Government, the one railway station at present serving Belgrade will be transformed into a station for passenger traffic only. . . . The general plan foreshadows the construction of two ports, one on the Sava, the other on the Danube, as has already been stated. The Danube port will be the main port for the transport of goods and for river nagivation, but will also be used for passenger traffic.

It will be constructed as an open port with an outside length of 7,173 m. and an internal length of 4,300 m., which gives a total of 11,473 m. of shore which can be used. The quays will be divided in the following manner: For coal 1,054 m., grain 2,481 m., goods in packets 2,102 m. Besides these there will be a free part of the quay which will be situated in the inner basin. The quays for the handling of petrol and of benzine will be situated on the island of Huja. There will be other quays for building materials, wood, flour, cement, salt, plums, and a special quay for passengers. The capacity of the port will be about 1,520,000 tons per annum. The Sava Port will be constructed along the river starting from the island of "Ada-Tziganlija," which is situated just in front of the present bridge, and will stretch along the river down to the fortress, a total length of 3,245 metres. This port will consist of an ordinary quay which will be divided in the following way: First the quay for passengers, then, further up the river, quays for wood (500 metres), building materials and cement (300 metres), for salt (328 metres), for coal (635 metres), for cereals (265 metres), and for flour (380 metres). The capacity of the port will be 700,000 tons per annum. According to estimates the construction of the Danube port will cost 51,000,000 gold dinars, and that of the Sava port will cost an equal amount, for although the calculations have not yet been definitely made, it is expected that the importance of this work will be considerable in spite of the fact that its capacity will be smaller than that of the Danube, as it will be necessary to enlarge the channel of the Sava itself by some 60 metres.

Among the general plans for the reconstruction of Belgrade which have been received, that which was received under the name of "Singidinum Novissima" contains a favourable and practical scheme for the utilisation of the left bank of the Sava and the large plain which stretches up to Zemun railway station between the river and the railway line; but this plan cannot be undertaken now because the works would involve huge expenditure.

The construction of new stations and the transformation of the present station and its equipment will cost, according to the calculation of the expert commission which has made the General Plan, about 162,000,000 gold dinars. But as this work is divided into three categories in order of their respective importance and will be carried out in the course of ten and more years, for the time being only that work will be undertaken which is most important, and which will cost about 47,000,000 gold dinars.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mandasor for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 9).

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, August 25).

British India Line.—S.s. Mulbera for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 8); s.s. Takliwa for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 16).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Murdock for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, August 15).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Eastbourne for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 4).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Algerian for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, August 16).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 9); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 6); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 13).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Macedonia for Bombay (London August 8); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London September 6).

1,060 merchant vessels called at Aden during 1923.

The total value of the imports of Aden in 1923 was 72,419,000 rupees, excluding Government stores; while the value of exports was 59,955 rupees.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Sharp Rise in Futures.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended July 24, state :—

The market during the past week has been rather excited. The net changes since last Thursday are : Sakellaridis, 2.97 dollars up for November, 2.95 dollars up for January; Ashmouni, 3.15 dollars up for August, 2.63 dollars up for October, 2.50 dollars up for December, 2.53 dollars up for February. The rise of about three dollars is not attributable to any new development in connection with the Egyptian crop—it is solely the result of the advance of prices in New York consequent upon the publication of the Bureau Report on the American crop. This report, made up to 15th inst., shows a depreciation of 2.7 per cent. from June 25. The figure given is 68.5, which is considerably below that anticipated; private estimates ranged between 69.8 and 73.7. The July position was squeezed during the last few trading days of the option, and the price was pushed up to 48 dollars—about 7.00 over November. This big advance induced the issue of dockets, and the tender on Wednesday amounted to 6,250 krs. As a result of the purchases of the last few weeks, quite an appreciable speculative position now exists in new crops, particularly in Sakel. Should American crop news improve, we might easily experience a sharp reaction; for the time being, however, there are no signs of such improvement, and, with profits in hand, speculators show no tendency to liquidate their positions. The new crop demand from the trade has been rather better this week than for some time past, but it cannot be called good, and spinners still seem to be holding off in anticipation of lower prices. The week's receipts amount to 4,073 krs. against exports 82,621 krs.; the stock stands at 417,242 krs. Spot.—Total sales during the week amount to about 4,000 bales, of which we estimate 3,300 bales Sakellaridis, 600 bales Uppers, and 100 bales Brown.

Sakellaridis.—The demand continues to be concentrated on Fully Good Fair and below; there has been practically no inquiry for the higher grades. Holders of cotton appear rather more inclined to liquidate their stocks owing both to the rise in futures and the approach of the new crop, and the price of spot as compared with contracts is, therefore, slightly easier all round.

Uppers.—The stock of this variety available for sale being small, business is restricted; there is still, however, quite a fair demand which covers all grades. The price of spot as compared with contracts remains about unchanged.

Brown.—A small business has been done in Good Fair and Good to Fully Good at about the same prices as those paid for similar grades of Uppers. The stock of this variety is practically exhausted.

Crop 1924.—Crop news is unchanged; the plants are progressing well. The supply of irrigation water is ample, but many growers are complaining of the irregularity of the distribution, and it becomes more and more clear that the Civil Services are suffering from the retirement of the English officials. Temperature is rather higher than last week.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Better Inquiry for Egyptian.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 31 :—

Egyptian Spot.—The inquiry for Egyptian cotton this week has been on an improved scale, and prices have hardened from 150 to 200 points. Although business at the Manchester end appears to be in a state of uncertainty owing to the recent rapid advance (in which manufacturers have little faith), spinners still have orders to fulfil, and those who have not prefer to keep their mills running rather than stop. Hence, in spite of the sharp advance in the price of the raw material, quite a fair business has taken place here, and it is obvious that many spinners are having considerable difficulty in obtaining supplies which will carry them over into the new crop. Stocks here are in a very depleted state, and the purchase of prompt shipment cotton from Alexandria is proving a costly business. Sakellaridis, 300 to 400 on, has been in request, although the high premium at which July has stood has prevented much business in the better class of cotton. Fully good fair (?) at 150 to 200 on has been asked for, and Sakel at pass price to 300 off has commanded an increased attention. The market for these lower qualities is extremely irregular.

There is still a fairly good outlet here for best upper at a price, but there appears to be no supply available. It is rumoured that a considerable business has been done in new crops. Low uppers, fair to good fair, have moved off in small quantities, staple lots being in good request. The improved interest in Sudan cotton, which was noticeable last week, has been well maintained, and there is no doubt that its relative cheapness (we refer to Sudan Sakel), as compared with Sakellaridis, is taking on an increased attraction for spinners. Tokar Sakellaridis finds support at a price. There has been a disposition lately amongst holders of this cotton to take advantage of present values and sell—with the result that the market is somewhat irregular, prices differing as much as a penny per lb. A test tender of Tokar I. was made last Friday, and the cotton, after passing through at 300 on by arbitration, was dropped to 175 on by appeal, which works out at 25.20d.

A fair c.i.f. business appears to have been done for prompt shipment. Forwardings for week ending 25th instant were returned as 7,176 bales. Estimated sales, 2,000 bales Egyptian and about 1,350 bales Sudan. Quotations of brown and

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upper are advanced 200 points (fair exceptionally 175 points). Sakellaridis is 150 points higher for fair, 200 higher for good fair, fully good fair, and good, and 175 higher for fine and extra fine. Fully good fair Sakellaridis to-day 26.15d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Fluctuations in Raw Cotton.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended July 26 states :—

General.—A very uncomfortable week has been experienced. On Monday the American Agricultural Bureau published a mid-monthly report which came as a shock, the condition being given as 68.5 per cent., and the estimated crop 11,934,000 bales, as compared with 71.2 per cent. and 12,144,000 bales on the 25th ult. The consequence was a hurried rush to buy both in New York and Liverpool, and prices on the week are up 1d. to 1½d. per lb. Coming at a time when the majority of people here had convinced themselves that the crop was progressing favourably, and lower prices were almost a certainty, the report created great confusion, and in many quarters is frankly disbelieved. The market, however, has been thoroughly disorganised.

Yarn.—For the reason mentioned above business in this section has been of only modest dimensions. A certain number of orders have been placed, probably by manufacturers who, expecting lower prices, had delayed their purchases, but, in face of the new state of affairs, dared do so no longer.

Cloth.—Business has been possible by manufacturers who are willing to forgo the greater part of the advance in the raw material through being well placed in respect to their yarn purchases, but where full prices have been asked for negotiations have mostly been fruitless. In view of the heavy fluctuations in the raw material, it is only to be expected that merchants will decline to face the risks involved in buying ahead, and will content themselves with covering urgent requirements.

Raw Cotton.—There is nothing to add under this heading to what has already been said. Closing prices yesterday were as follows :—American fully middling, 18.29; Egyptian fully good fair, 25.00.

Last week's report, dated Aug. 2, states :—

General.—The market has again been completely under the influence of heavy fluctuations in raw cotton. As is generally the case under such circumstances, the tendency has been for consumers abroad and merchants here to stand by until a steadier state of affairs prevails.

Yarn.—From the cause referred to in the preceding paragraph business in this section has this week been rendered more difficult than ever. A number of small lots has changed hands, as, of course, is always the case, but few contracts of any importance have been arranged. Nominally, quotations are higher following the rise in the raw material.

Cloth.—A certain amount of business has been done when manufacturers have been willing to accept prices below the cost of reproduction on to-day's basis, but, generally speaking, it has been a poor week. Offers have come forward, and apparently a good business could be done on the basis of prices ruling a fortnight ago, but, of course, these are now mostly impracticable. From India a fair inquiry has been experienced, but China does very little, and the same applies to most other foregn outlets.

Raw Cotton.—As already mentioned, this market continues to be very disturbed. Wide variations in prices, based chiefly on reports regarding the weather in the American cotton-growing area, have been the rule. The quotation on Friday of last week for American fully middling was 18.29; day-by-day fluctuations since have been as follows :—Monday, 75 points rise; Tuesday, 28 points fall; Wednesday, 41 points rise; Thursday. 58 points fall. Commencing yesterday, the new universal standards are being quoted, that for middling American being 18.18d. Egyptian fully good fair Sakellarides was yesterday 26d., against 25d. a week ago.

A quay 1,800 feet in length, consisting of three berths with a depth of water of 35 feet, is to be constructed at Madras.

Reuter's Agency has received the following telegram from a Greek semi-official source in Athens :—"The National Bank of Greece has placed at the disposal of the Commission for the Establishment of Refugees a sum of £1,000,000 sterling as an advance on the future Refugee Loan."

Minerva (Roumania) Oil.—June report: Moreni Plot No. 34, Well 1, total depth 360 metres. Diam. 16 in. Testing water shut off. Plot No. 2, Well 2, drilled 115 metres, total depth 385. Set 16 in. column for water shut-off. Plot No. 30, Well 4, drilled 142 metres. Royalty Plot No. 113, Well 106, has yielded approximately 3,000 tons during the month, and continues to flow. Runcu.—Plot No. 18, Well 4, awaiting release of drilling plant from Plot 1. Plot No. 1, Well 1, drilled 13 metres, total 539. Participation. Trial baling showed 150 metres of pure oil with strong gas. Lowering perforated casing. Well 3, drilled 7 metres, total 510. Participation. Deepening to sands at 520 and 528 metres. Plot No. 17, Well 2, drilled 32 metres, total 322. Participation. Royalty Plot No. 11, Well 3, has yielded approximately 3,700 tons during the month, and continues to flow at a reduced rate. Plot No. 17, Well 12, has yielded approximately 500 tons during the month. The total production for June, including oil derived from Royalty wells, is 647 tons estimated.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	256-258
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	367-373
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	23.73-23.75
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5½-1.5 9/16
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	94½-95⅝
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	1000
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	330-360,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5½-1.5 9/16
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	865-870
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.42¾
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	84.85
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	149
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	101⅝
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	600
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	312-315,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	—	22.95-23.10

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Company Meetings.

FURNESS WITHY AND CO.

Sir Frederick Lewis on the Shipping Outlook.

The thirty-third annual general meeting of Furness Withy and Co., Ltd., was held on July 30 at Furness House, Leadenhall Street, E.C. Sir Frederick W. Lewis, Bart., the chairman, presided.

Sir Frederick W. Lewis, Bart., in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: I have been looking back over my addresses to you during the past two or three years, and I notice that in 1921 I indicated that a very difficult period lay ahead of the shipping industry; then, in 1922, that the conditions were about as depressing as they could be, and last year I did not feel justified in holding out any very encouraging hopes of substantial improvement during the succeeding twelve months. In fact, as is well known to most of us, there has been no general improvement in trade as a whole, and consequently I think the shareholders will be satisfied to see that our profits for the year show a small increase at £572,442, as compared with £552,510 in 1923. Even so, I am afraid we cannot place this slight improvement to the credit of the shipowning business; and were it not for the fact, as I have pointed out on previous occasions, that we have a great many diversified interests, it would not have been possible to have achieved this result.

Altogether, including the amount brought forward, the profit and loss account shows £774,758 10s. 7d. available for disposal. The directors propose, after providing for the half-yearly preference dividend and for the dividends on the ordinary shares, to make a bonus distribution of 2½ per cent. to the ordinary shareholders, making a total of 7½ per cent., free of tax, and to transfer £200,000 to depreciation, leaving £216,636 17s. 10d. to be carried forward, as shown in the balance-sheet. In regard to the depreciation allocation, this is a prudent policy that I am sure will have your approval, notwithstanding that I am able to assure you that in the aggregate our assets are at present values worth more than the figure at which they stand in the balance-sheet. It would be wearisome if I were to refer in any detail to each of our regular Line services, numbering as they do something like forty different trade routes; and, while some of these services have necessarily had to be curtailed on account of the scarcity of cargo offering, we have nevertheless maintained our full organisation and equipment in readiness for any eventualities.

During the year, in association with other important British groups, we became interested with the Russian authorities in the formation of the Russo-British Grain Export Company, Ltd., and I am glad to be able to state that the export of grain from the Russian Black Sea ports was revived on a considerable scale last season.

When circumstances justify, your company will be in the market for additional ships. It is a problem that has received very anxious and prolonged consideration. We have three alternatives:—(a) To build vessels in this country at uneconomical prices—that is to say, at prices upon which we will not be able to obtain a return equal to or even approaching that which we are receiving on Government securities:; (b) to build abroad at lower prices; or (c) to defer building until we can do so on a basis that is commercially sound. Of these alternatives we have adopted the last.

It may be that we are much nearer a trade revival than the present outlook would justify us in believing, but whether that is so or not, it is still an indisputable fact that on the one hand trade is still considerably short of the volume in 1913, and on the other hand the available tonnage is considerably in excess of requirements, as is evidenced by the fact that at July 1 there were approximately 1,150,000 tons d.w. of shipping laid up in British ports, apart altogether from that laid up in foreign ports, which I have no means of calculating.

A well-known economist has prophesised a great boom in shipping, and recommended adventurous owners to build ships without delay. I sincerely hope he is right, but I cannot disguise from you that the immediate outlook of the freight market is depressing. Whether or not the long-deferred and long-looked-for settlement of Continental difficulties is going to bring about the revival that is desired remains to be seen. I can only hope that circumstances may so adapt themselves before we next meet that I may then be able to give you a more reliable and hopeful forecast than I feel able to do under existing conditions.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

BANK OF ROUMANIA.

Steadiness of the Exchange.

The annual general meeting of the Bank of Roumania, Ltd., was held on July 30 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. General the Hon. Sir Herbert A. Lawrence, K.C.B., presided.

The Secretary (Mr. H. Locke) having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: As you will see, the balance available, after making provision for bad debts, income-tax, and corporation tax, amounts to £19,006 0s. 9d. The Board recommends the payment of a dividend of 6s. per share, less income-tax, which will absorb £11,531 5s., and that the balance of £7,474 15s. 9d. be transferred to the contingency account. The business of the bank continues to be satisfactory, but the high rate of exchange at which we have to convert our profits on the other side is an adverse factor which has to be borne in mind.

The shortage of money, which commenced to make itself felt at the end of 1922, has increased during 1923, and to a certain extent has impeded the development of industry generally throughout Roumania.

At our last meeting Lord Goschen said that the rate of exchange was then much steadier, and this comparative stability was maintained throughout the year, the rate on December 31, 1923, being 850 as compared with 800 on January 1. This reflects a welcome improvement when compared with the fall from 550 to 800 in 1922.

This steadiness in the exchange has evidently had its effect on trade between Great Britain and Roumania, as according to British Customs returns the exports from this country to Roumania during the year 1923 were £2,759,000 (60,500 tons), the largest item being, as usual, cotton goods to the value of £1,643,000. This total shows a slight advance on the figures for 1922 (£2,633,000), and is quite good when one remembers that large stocks were held over in Roumania from the boom period. Imports into Great Britain from Roumania for 1923 were valued at £2,360,000 (404,800 tons), the largest items being:—Cereals, £350,000; oil, £309,000; timber, £358,000. The total of £2,360,000 shows a pleasing increase on that of 1922—viz., £1,700,000.

The increased and extended taxation is showing good results, and the Budget for the year 1923 was balanced, revenue and expenditure both being about 15,406 million lei. The Government not only refrained from borrowing further sums from the National Bank, but actually reduced its floating liability to that institution by 1,278 million lei, in addition to liquidating some of its internal obligations in other directions.

With regard to the present harvest, the cultivated area is larger than in previous years, but, owing to a severe drought during part of May and June, the earlier expectations of a very good crop will probably not be realised. The latest information from our Bucharest manager shows that in all probability the wheat harvest will be sufficient for the internal needs of the country, and will leave a small surplus for export, which, however, will not easily be effected owing to the high level of internal prices and the incidence of export taxes. The maize crop, which is, of course, the main consideration, promises well.

In the oil industry the production was maintained in 1923 at 4,350 to 4,500 tons per day, while the total production in 1923 was 1,508,000 tons, as against 1,372,000 tons in 1922.

The discovery of new productive oilfields brings hope that the output will be greater in the year 1924, and the effect of the new mining law which has recently been passed will probably mean the retention in Roumania of a greater proportion of the profits arising from the oil business than has hitherto been the case. At the same time, the prospects of greater activity on the part of foreign companies and the introduction of new foreign capital in the industry are not hopeful.

The National Bank of Roumania has again in 1923 afforded considerable help to the commerce and industry of the country through the financial institutions, as is shown by the increase in its holding of bills discounted.

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which at the end of 1923 was 5,864,110,365 lei, as against 3,808,488,416 lei in 1922. The Crédit Industriel, which was founded in 1923, has also commenced its work of assistance to the industry of the country.

Before resuming my seat I desire to express, on behalf of the Board of Directors, our high appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the bank by our late chairman, the Viscount Goschen, during the twenty-seven years of his association with us, and to wish him every success in his new sphere of activity.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

TRADE WITH ROUMANIA.

In presenting the sixth annual report of the British-Roumanian Chamber of Commerce to the members on July 30, the Right Hon. Lord Oranmore and Browne, K.P., the chairman, said there had been an improvement in trade with Roumania during 1923. The exports from the United Kingdom into Roumania (including re-exports) were £2,847,903 (an increase of £159,000 compared with 1922), the largest item being, as usual, cotton goods to the value of £1,743,000. The imports from Roumania into the United Kingdom amounted to £2,361,584, which showed an increase of £666,000 on the figures for 1922. With regard to imports from Roumania, the tendency on the part of that country to lift some of the restrictions which had hindered business must also be noted as a favourable factor.

For some months past the Roumanian textile manufacturers had been agitating for an increase in the Customs tariff on textiles, as they claimed that the existing one was insufficient protection for the home trade, and it was quite possible that increases of duty on other goods would also be made. This would tend to decrease their exports to them.

Reviewing the trade of Roumania as a whole during the past twelve months, he was pleased to say that, although there was plenty of room for improvement, they could find satisfaction in considering that in the disorganised state of business with Continental countries, traders here had found it possible to do the amount of business which had been done, and provide a useful outlet for their goods, an outlet which was still, of course, capable of great extension. The uncertainty caused by the difficulties of payment (which were not peculiar to Roumania), due to a depreciated exchange, was referred to in the report of the council.

The country was certainly continuing the work of consolidating its position, and had many difficulties to contend with in its re-organisation, due to the much larger area of which Greater Roumania was now composed. Old channels of trade had been disturbed, and it required time to establish the new channels necessitated by the changes in territory due to the recent upheaval. Certain channels were set up after the Armistice, which would not seem to be of an enduring character, and it was confidently to be expected that the volume of trade would be increased in the near future.

M. Titulesco, Roumanian Minister in London, was unanimously re-elected hon. president of the Chamber.

The League of Nations Commission for the study of the incidence of malaria in Eastern Europe, which has visited Yugoslavia, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Roumania, and Poland, is now in Russia. It will go on to Italy next month

Phra Sarasas has been appointed Siamese Consul-General in Calcutta. He has been Secretary to the Legation in London for several years. He will take up his duties in September.

The Government of the United States has decided to grant Malta a definite quota of 10 immigrants for the ensuing year, instead of classing the island under the heading "Other Europe," as heretofore.

HIDE AND SKIN TRADE OF ADEN.

Immense quantities of raw hides and skins are annually sent to Aden from the near-by Red Sea and African ports, such as Mocha, Hodeidah, Djibouti, Berbera, and Mogadiscio, for sorting, baling, and re-exportation to different parts of the world, principally to the United States, France, and the United Kingdom (says an American Consular report).

The year 1923 in general was favourable to the hide and skin industry. The imports decreased only slightly in quantity and increased in value, while exports increased both in quantity and value. Hides have not yet recovered from the slump which took place after the boom year of 1919-20, although a slight increase in quantity and value was recorded in both imports and exports. The large stocks which have remained in Aden godowns since 1919 are at last showing the effects of a reviving market, and quite probably imports from Abyssinia, the home of the so-called Aden hide, will shortly assume more normal proportions.

The imports of raw skins into Aden from all countries during 1923 decreased to 5,734,000 pieces from 6,188,000 pieces in 1922. Imports from British possessions and Djibouti registered decreases, while the quantity imported from Dunkali coast, Independent Somali ports, Italian East Africa, and Red Sea ports increased. Exports of goatskins amounted to 4,429,000 pieces in 1923, as compared with 3,671,000 pieces in the previous year, this increase being largely due to larger purchases by France and the United States, which amounted to 402,000 and 3.544,000 pieces respectively. Exports of sheepskins amounted to 1,762,000 pieces in 1923, as compared with 1,566,000 pieces in 1922. Exports to the United States and France increased from 376,000 and 100,000 pieces respectively in 1922 to 677,000 and 134,000 respectively. Exports of the miscellaneous type headed "All Other Skins" amounted to 1,285,000 pieces in 1923, as compared with 1,312,000 pieces in the previous year. The total exports of skins, therefore, increased from 6,549,000 pieces in 1922 to 7,476,000 pieces in 1923.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Copper Plates.—Tenders are invited for the supply of 11,500 kgs. of red copper plates of varying dimensions. September 1. (D.O.T.)

Oils.—The general manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of mineral lubricating oils. September 25.

Construction of a Metallic Bridge over the Mahmoudieh Canal at Karmous.—The Municipality of Alexandria invites tenders for the construction of a metallic bridge over the Mahmoudieh Canal at Karmous. September 23. (D.O.T.)

Turkey.

Bell Tents.—A department of the Turkish Government proposes to purchase 1,000 bell tents. (D.O.T.)

Greece.

Construction of Works at Kavalla Harbour.—Tenders are invited by the Kavalla Harbour Committee for the construction of works at Kavalla Harbour according to the specifications drawn up by the engineer, Mr. A. Ghinis. These works are estimated to cost drs. 76,000,000. The adjudication will take place on December 1, 1924, and tenders must be submitted by that date. A guarantee deposit of drs. 600,000 must be made in the Public Treasury, and this deposit will be returned to unsuccessful competitors within three days after the date of adjudication. In the event of two or more competitors tendering at the same price, lots will be drawn. (D.O.T.)

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CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - - £390,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia:—
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Ahwaz, Bafrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdab, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

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Paid-up Capital - - - - £485,580
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Managing Governors in India:—
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N. M. MURRAY, Esq., Offg.

London Manager:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.

Authorised Capital - - Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - - Rs. 5.62.50.000
Reserve - - - - - - Rs. 4.45.00.000

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... £4,000,000 | Paid-up Capital ... £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... £4,000,000 | Reserve Fund ... £2,750,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

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The Commercial Bank of the Near East, Ltd., with branch at Constantinople.

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BANK of ATHENS

Head Office: ATHENS.

ESTABLISHED 1893

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38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £3,900,000.

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CAWNPORE	KARACHI	RANGOON	TOKYO
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The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

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Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000 Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Liabiity of Shareholders - - - - - £1,000,000 Reserve Fund - - £340,000

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors:

J. S. HASKELL, Esq. (*Chairman*).
SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
J. H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
MEYER SASSOON, Esq.
SIR PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt.

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Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000 Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000
Reserve - - - - - - - £720,000

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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - - - - - - £3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - - £2,325,000

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*MANTOLA ...	8,963 ...	Aug. 16	... Aug. 30	... Madras & Calcutta
¶†MORVADA ...	8,193 ...	Aug. 23	... Sept. 12	... Bombay & Karachi
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THE NEAR EAST

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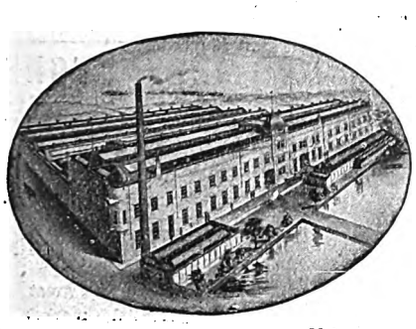

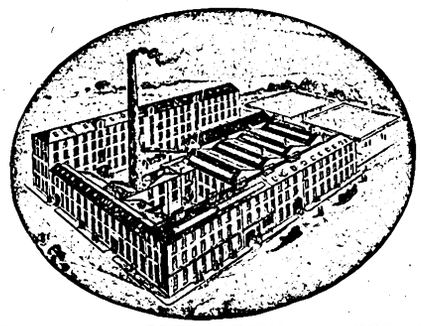

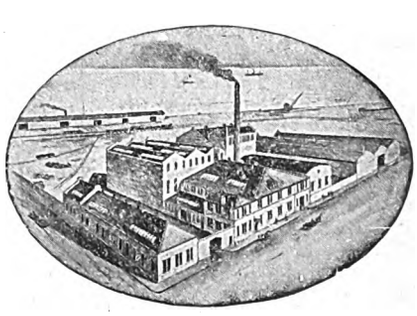

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No. 692—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Political Respite in Greece.

The new Greek Government under M. Sophoulis has been accorded a vote of confidence by 181 to 141 votes, and the National Assembly has been adjourned until October. In the seven or eight weeks' respite thus accorded him, M. Sophoulis will have opportunity to strengthen his position and to make a start on carrying into effect the programme that he outlined in the Chamber. Whether the change of Government has introduced greater political stability in Greece it is too early to decide, but there can be no doubt that the people as a whole are momentarily tired of politics and are feeling the need of smooth and efficient administration. The downfall of M. Papanastasiou was brought about by the inherent weakness of his Cabinet, which seemed unable to cope effectively with any of the more difficult questions with which it was confronted in its short tenure of office. As a result of the political uncertainty of the last few years, Greece finds herself seriously in arrears with regard to a number of problems of which a State must continually keep abreast, if it is to deserve the name of progressive. M. Sophoulis has laid stress on the need for strict economy in public expenditure, but recognises that the country has considerable leeway to make up in the matter of public works. Road construction and the upkeep of existing highways are prime necessities; Athens is still, after thirty or more years of discussion of the subject, without an adequate water supply; above all, there is the tremendous refugee problem, with which the future welfare of the country is so closely linked. A danger to which Greece is exposed is the possible conviction of a number of loyal citizens that the republic has already been shown to be a mistake, and their belief that the best moment for a change is before the republic has had time to become a habit with the people. Against this view may well be set the popular desire for a quiet life, which will make the majority averse from any change, even one which may be welcomed a few years hence.

The New Order in Yugoslavia.

The establishment of a new Government in Yugoslavia has been followed almost immediately by the departure of M. Raditch, the Croatian leader, from Moscow. He had been forbidden to return to Vienna, but has now been accorded a transit *visa*, and he is credited with the intention of making a few weeks' stay at Baden. In the meantime M. Raditch has given his blessing to M. Davidovitch's Ministry, and has mapped out a programme for the Government which would seem to be based on the idea that M. Raditch's views are to carry the day in Yugoslavia. It will be interesting to watch whether the new Prime Minister, in his desire to restore unity to the country, will consider it necessary to go wholly over into M. Raditch's camp, or will be able to persuade him to forget Moscow and to think only of what is suited to the mentality and traditions of the Yugoslavs.

The Hejaz Treaty.

It is reported from Mecca that King Hussein has not found to his liking the draft of the treaty which has been so long in preparation with the British Government, and that his representative is to bring the much-travelled document back to London in the hope of winning acceptance for some further amendments. No objection will be taken to a fresh expression of King Hussein's views; but if he entertains the idea that he will obtain a formal withdrawal of the Balfour Declaration he is likely to be disappointed. The *raison d'être* for a treaty with the Hejaz is to reduce to a practical form the various promises given to the Arabs during the War. It is common ground that these promises left much to be desired in explicitness, and that they can be shown to clash with other undertakings given by the British Government. No one, however, attempts to prove deliberate guile on the part of Great Britain. The exigencies of the time are an explanation of the mistakes made, even if they cannot be held to justify them. The practical problem at the present time is to make the best of a complicated situation in order that there may be as little interference as possible with the peaceful development of the territories concerned. If King Hussein will lend his influence to this end, he may yet deserve well

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of the Arab world, and the Hejaz Government will be the more free to deal with such problems as the Mecca pilgrimage, which is exercising increasingly the minds of Moslems throughout the world of Islam. With the steady amelioration of conditions in Moslem countries pilgrims are becoming more and more unwilling to tolerate the hardships imposed upon them during their sacred mission, which they are beginning to realise can be remedied with a little good will and forethought.

The Iraq Government.

When the Ministry of Jaafer Pasha gave place to a Cabinet formed by General Yassin Pasha, who had been prominent in his opposition to the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty, some uncertainty was felt regarding the prospect of the maintenance of satisfactory relations between the two countries. Yassin Pasha, however, has lost no time in making his attitude clear, and proves himself to be one of the world's practical people, who can honourably accept the accomplished fact, after having taken a strong line of opposition while the subject was under discussion. He is pledged to attempt to obtain certain modifications of the Treaty, or, rather, of the supplementary agreements, which, indeed, have been already promised by the British Government. For the rest he claims to have formed a business Government, which promises to carry out some of the more pressing requirements of the new State. Among the items of his programme are reduction in administrative expenditure, development of the country's resources, especially by means of irrigation, the investigation of agrarian problems, the spread of education, and the completion of preparations for defence. In this list it is noticeable that pride of place is given to the views of the Minister of Finance, Sassoon Effendi Heskail, who can be relied upon to keep a strict control of the exchequer so long as he remains in office, while at the end of the long list comes the matter in which General Yassin Pasha is mostly interested. Whether he will be able to give effect to his Finance Minister's policy of retrenchment and at the same time bring the army up to the standard which he himself is known to favour, must remain for the present an open question. Of the importance of a policy of economic development for Iraq there can be no doubt, and it is to be hoped that the inclusion of these two strong men in the same Cabinet will lead to the carrying out of a practical programme which carefully adjusts Iraq's requirements to her capacity. No one will find much fault with the Government if for a time education lags a little behind the promotion of the country's material needs.

The Sikh Reaction.

The most welcome items in the news from India are those recording the progress of the Sikh revolt against the group of politicians who have for so long usurped the right to dictate to the community. Some such reaction was considerably overdue, but until quite recently there have been no signs of its appearance, and it has seemed as if the small number of irreconcilables were to be allowed to continue emitting the clouds of poison-gas which have spread over nearly the whole of the Punjab. Sir Malcolm Hailey, who knows the facts, recently described their propaganda as cruel and dangerous deceit, directed to the subversion of the authority of the State, and apparently his firm declaration that the Government is out to govern has at last given the lead for which the preponderant mass of reasonable opinion has been silently waiting. As everybody knows, there is no lack of courage in the community, but there is a certain slowness of wit, to which the delay in the revolt may fairly be attributed. If this obstacle has now been overcome, and if the new spirit of energy is maintained, India may be in sight of the liquidation of a position which has been an increasing menace to the peace and prosperity of the North.

The Forces of Apathy.

We wish it were possible to point to similar movements of revolt in the other parts of India where public opinion is for the time being dominated by equally vociferous, and almost equally dangerous, cliques, but hitherto we have failed to detect anything of the kind. In Bengal and in the Central Provinces, where the popular side of the new institutions is temporarily in abeyance, we have the depressing spectacle of appeals to the Governor to put matters right, to find places for officials whose salaries have been refused by the Legislature, or to provide schools, or hospitals, or waterworks, or any of the other needs for which the Council has not voted funds; but the reiterated explanations that these are matters for popular control seem to lead to no effective movement for bringing pressure to bear on the representatives of the people. Wits are quicker in these provinces than in the Punjab; but we fear it must be admitted that civic courage is still lacking, even in Calcutta itself, and, so long as that is the case, the prospect for real self-government is not bright. Whatever the explanation, the fact remains that the continued apathy of the classes which should lead in action is now, more than ever, the cause of their own discomfort.

The Indian Small Investor.

We have so often urged the importance of establishing the Indian small investor as an integral part of the national financial structure that we may be pardoned for emphasising Sir Basil Blackett's definite adherence to that policy, as exhibited in a speech he made last month in Calcutta, when he announced that the terms given to buyers of cash certificates would not be reduced. because it would be a pity to disturb the growing popularity of these investments, and because the national benefits they bring outweigh the slightly higher cost to Government. This is good finance, as distinct from meticulous accountancy, to spend a little now in order to secure the permanent establishment of a new resource. We invite Sir Basil to take the next step at once, by declaring that the small investor is to be the main, and eventually the only, source for financing the programme of reproductive State enterprises. Already his existence has reduced the State demands on the commercial market by one-fourth. Sir Basil himself may hope to see that figure rise to one-half; and there is no reason why his successor should not see the half become the whole, leaving the market free to finance agriculture, trade and industry, which collectively can absorb all the money it provides.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Parliamentary Session.

Last week Parliament rose to meet again in seven weeks' time. Labour had been in office since January, and the end of the session appears to have been welcomed by all parties. Neither Labour man, nor Conservative, nor Liberal can look back on it with much delight, for the stock of no party has considerably appreciated. The wisest men still find politics uninteresting.

But there is no denying the fact that the rôle of Labour has created no panic. It is true that the European question is still unsettled, and that strikes still are frequent, but, like that of the general to Wagner, the ordinary man's attitude to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald is now: "I don't like him, but I'm not afraid of him."

The fashion is to praise Labour for its foreign policy and in a rather Olympian manner to deprecate the effect of its domestic proposals; but it is difficult to see the reason of this. Certainly on foreign matters there is little to chide the Government with, but has the ice of international been really cut yet? It is a little early to speak.

With one country only—Russia—has the Government actually proclaimed an agreement. And this agreement, which appears to ignore the material interests of European bondholders, is by no means to the liking of the House of Commons. Whether, in spite of the pother raised in the Press against it, it will be finally approved by the country I cannot guess. If precedent goes for anything, the extraordinary manner in which at the last moment it was rushed through will not tell against it in the short run, but, as in the case of Ireland, will bring trouble in the long run.

In its home policy the Government has, so it seems to me, been fairly successful. Admittedly the new ideas which we were promised (or, from the other point of view, with which we were threatened) have got lost by the wayside, or were thrown overboard to prevent shipwreck, but the great Housing Bill has been passed, and that is something considerable to play with. And I doubt whether the Government has lost much through its inability to check industrial disputes, for they were foolish people who expected the stopping of economic activities by political action. Strikes are a product of our industrial system, and cannot be modified by any form of Government. That the tempers of masters and men have not improved during the régime of a Labour Government is, moreover, a mere coincidence.

Ireland.

Mr. Thomas, the Colonial Secretary, has departed for South Africa, having breathed over this land words of optimism concerning Ireland. It is well that he should be optimistic, for few other people are. If the Labour Government effect a real settlement in Ireland, their deed will be remembered when Jubaland and Soviet Russia and Mosul and all the rest of the objects of their admirable intentions are forgotten.

What the Bill which the Government are introducing next session will contain is uncertain, but it seems that what is called "the coercion of Ulster" will be implied in it. How this country is divided on the question whether those parts of present Ulster which are predominantly Nationalist should be incorporated in the Free State it is not easy to see. Before the War, one thinks, England would have been much readier and keener to support Ulster through thick and thin; but now, it may be, it will support it only through thin. Whether any permanent settlement can be reached through supporting the Free State in its present demands (said on insufficient grounds to have been made because of its waning popularity compared with that of the Republicans) is perhaps doubtful; but the possibility of a permanent settlement through England's whole-hearted support of Ulster does not exist. It is from this angle of expediency, rather than from any principle such as that of loyalty or justice, that Englishmen are in great part now looking anxiously on at this Irish problem.

The Battle of Jutland.

Our Press is a vile Press, but, like beer, some of it worse than the rest. Because a German Admiral publishes his account of the Battle of Jutland some journals must needs print them with the disgusting insinuation—disgusting because ignorant—that Admiral Jellicoe failed dismally to take advantage of his opportunity of shortening the War by two years. One does not, of course, object to criticism of the tactics of the fleet in that battle if that criticism is expert and not designed merely to deprecate one of our sailors at the expense of another, but this jejune journalistic gibberish is nauseating in the extreme. By their attitude towards certain distinguished soldiers and sailors can many of our journals be known.

The Russian Treaty.

Anger blazed and tempers frayed as permission was finally extracted from the House of Commons to sign the Treaty with the representatives of Soviet Russia. The Unionists were against the agreement to a man, and even Mr. Lloyd George poured his scorn, now perhaps a little etiolated, upon it. But Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and Mr. Ponsonby stuck, with respective obstinacy and ignorance, to their exhausted guns, and the agreement will in a few weeks receive the full batteries of the House.

What it is all about I confess I have not yet discovered. So many concessions have been made on both sides that it really seems to be a mutual defeat. It has been described as "an agreement to agree if and when the parties can agree," and no amount of rhetoric upon White Sea fishing and bondholders and Oriental propaganda can improve upon that.

The general view appears to be that the Prime Minister has sacrificed to his pre-office fetish of the recognition of Russia his common-sense, but acceptance or rejection of it must be deferred until the debate in the House upon it.

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Coast Erosion.

It is, I believe, a moot question whether the land is gaining over the sea or vice versa, but there is no doubt that in this country, at any rate, coast erosion is causing considerable anxiety. Those who share in this anxiety—and the cost of assuaging it—are endeavouring to make defence from the sea into one of the responsibilities of the Crown. At a meeting convened in London recently a strong resolution was passed, declaring that the cost of sea defence was intolerable for some towns (little towns on the East Anglian and East Riding coasts had already disappeared), and that, therefore, the Government should contribute towards a great scheme of national defence.

There is no question that the matter is urgent. Already some people are foreseeing an isle of Lowestoft. Hitherto the tides have been stemmed either by communal or personal effort, but such effort has become increasingly difficult. I know of one place on the East Coast where the sea already has made its gap in a privately built wall, and any dark night now may be washed out what in the Middle Ages was a flourishing port.

Some towns can afford, others cannot, to protect their frontage, but until there is a connected scheme of protection the sea will always have the last laugh. Alter Ego.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ARAB MUSIC.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—The account in The Near East of July 17 of the recital of Arab songs at the Wigmore Hall was very interesting. It should be better known that one of the greatest players, if not the greatest, of the "plucked musical instrument," the Arab ut, is Shereef Mohuiddin, son of H.H. the Emir Shereef Ali Haidar.

The Shereef is a skilled player of the violoncello, and a student of classical European music. He is also a composer, and among his later compositions are an Arab "Berceuse" and other pieces of advanced technique. This technical development has greatly interested such artists as Godowski, Kreisler, Mischa Elman, Jascha Heifetz, and others whom he has lately met in New York, and to whom he had the pleasure of playing.

On the advice of Professor Godowsky, Shereef Mohuiddin has played several preliminary pieces for a gramophone company, and it is to be hoped that before long these records may be released, so that musicians interested in Arab music may see the great possibilities that he has opened up.

A short time ago a French work was published on Arab music and the limitations of the ut, which was spoken of as an instrument only adapted for accompaniments. Shereef Mohuiddin's work has so developed this instrument that it suggests the change from the spinet to the pianoforte. One of the artists who heard him said "he had done for the ut what Paganini had done for the violin." He has had a special sounding-board added to one of his uts under the upper wires, which greatly increases the volume of the sound and which enables him to give his compositions in imitation of Bach, Chopin, and Beethoven.

Among other compositions of Shereef Mohuiddin are Arab airs which are wholly Oriental.

I am, etc., Mohammed Emin (Shereef).

Shumliyah, Scutari, Constantinople, July 28.

ALBANIA AND GREECE.

We have received from the Secretary of Chameria Brotherhood in the United States, Rajep Kobury, 78, Madison Street, Worcester, Mass., the following cablegram:—"We have read with much surprise your editorial article of June 26, stating that the League of Nations found that Albania invoked the League's assistance on entirely false grounds when complaint was made against Greece's action in expatriating Albanians as Turkish subjects, and investigation proved that the Greeks were merely carrying out the provisions of the law for partition of large estates irrespectively of the nationality of the owner. If the League really arrived at any such conclusion, it only proves how incompetent the investigations of the League have been and how ably the Greek Government succeeded in confusing two entirely different issues. It is true that a few Mohammedan Albanians misnamed Turks for purposes of propaganda are large landowners in Chameria or Northern Epirus, so-called, but the bulk of the population are not. We Mohammedan Albanians of Chameria who work in American factories are not concerned about big landowners, but about our rights under the Convention of Lausanne, namely, that Albanian Mohammedans living in Greece are not to be considered or handled as Turks. We appeal to your fairness to give prominence to this protest against the alleged findings of the League, which are ludicrous and false."

[It is possible that the incident to which our correspondent refers arose over the wording of the Albanian memorandum in which the matter was submitted to the secretariat of the League. As the application has been withdrawn, the Albanian Government presumably recognises that a mistake was made, and that an appeal to the League must be prepared with the strictest regard to facts. Thus, if Albanians anywhere are being expatriated, it is of no use to approach the League on the ground that they are being expatriated *qua* Turks, when in fact they are being dealt with under a law which is nominally applicable to all nationalities. The law may be wrong, or may be wrongly applied, but if it is the instrument by which expatriation is actually effected reference must be made to it, and the statement that its victims are all alleged to be Turks cannot be expected to satisfy the League, especially when it is unsupported by evidence.—Ed.]

The Lausanne Treaty with Turkey entered into force on August 6, 1924, so far as the British Empire, France, Italy, and Japan are concerned.

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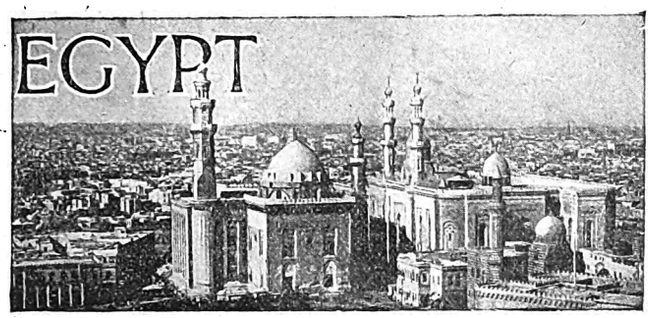
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, July 26.

Zaghloul Pasha.

If any doubts existed on the position which Saad Zaghloul Pasha still holds in the minds of the people of Egypt, the events of this past week must have set them definitely at rest. The Premier's journey from Cairo to Alexandria was a veritable triumphal progress. There was obviously nothing organised about the shouts and acclamations that greeted his train as it passed. The manner in which the *fellahin* congregated all along the route at points most distant from the Mudiria capitals—and one could see them from a distance running towards the line in order to join in the ovations—was itself sufficient to indicate how spontaneous was this demonstration of popularity and affection.

Down in Alexandria similar scenes were enacted. Saad Pasha could not stir out of the San Stefano Casino without crowds collecting and acclaiming him until they were hoarse. The farewell tea-party organised by the members of the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies was a further opportunity for gauging the place he holds in the hearts of the people—incidentally an interesting feature of this entertainment, the significance of which was not lost on the other guests, was the spectacle of Prince Omar Tussoun, the King's representative, and Lord Allenby seated on either side of Zaghloul Pasha as showing what changes the whirligig of time is capable of producing—while his departure for France took place amid scenes which will long live in the memory of all who witnessed them.

His Speech.

The speech which he made at the tea-party was his last public utterance before leaving the country, and it may be of interest to repeat the more important portions. It was purposely made short, in deference to the wish expressed by King Fuad to a Parliamentary deputation, which waited upon him the previous day, that Zaghloul Pasha should not fatigue himself with long speeches. In fact, His Majesty sent his Grand Chamberlain with express orders to see that the Prime Minister delivered only a brief speech.

Saad Pasha warmly thanked foreign personages, the foreign communities, and his fellow-countrymen for the great sympathy that had been extended to him. He said he was leaving the next day, but that he felt that in the countries to which he was going he would be among friends who loved Egypt and had great sympathy for her. He was going to take a cure, and then would return to his country, he hoped, fully restored in health. As regards negotiations, he could but repeat what he had so often said. If he found that by undertaking them Egypt lost and Britain gained no rights, then he would enter upon negotiations, which, with the grace of God and the strength and support of his fellow-countrymen, he hoped to bring to a successful conclusion.

It will be noted that in this his last utterance before leaving he still makes no definite statement with regard to his visit to London. This must not, however, be taken as indicating that the matter of his visit is still unsettled. He has accepted Mr. MacDonald's invitation, and has been informed that the end of September will in all probability be the most convenient time for the British Premier to receive him. For political reasons of purely local importance he has purposely left the matter vague, but, provided his health remains good, he will certainly go to London for what he calls "preliminary conversations." If any agreement is possible, those conversations will eventually turn out to have been the real negotiations, and the official delegation, which, after he has "found the situation favourable," will be appointed to negotiate, will in reality be called upon only to elaborate various heads and draft the final agreement.

The Meeting with Adly Pasha.

The meeting which took place between Adly Pasha and Zaghloul Pasha on the eve of the latter's departure came as a great—and, as far as one can gather, welcome—surprise. When Zaghloul Pasha was taken to hospital after the attempt on his life, one of the first to call and inquire was Adly Pasha, who had been estranged from him since the spring of 1921. On Thursday morning, after the Council of Ministers at Montaza Palace, Zaghloul Pasha called at Adly Pasha's house to return his visit. Later in the day Adly Pasha, who had not been at home, went to San Stefano Casino, and had with Zaghloul Pasha a long conversation, which was characterised on both sides by great cordiality. These visits were not known to the general public until after Zaghloul Pasha's departure, but when the news spread it was received with general satisfaction, for it is recognised that although Adly Pasha is no longer the head of the Constitutional Liberal Party, this resumption of friendly relations may possibly affect in a favourable manner the future course of politics in Egypt,

***Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.**

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and in any case cannot fail to strengthen Zaghloul Pasha's hand.

Acting Ministers.

During the absence of Saad Zaghloul Pasha the post of Prime Minister will be held by Mohamed Said Pasha, who will retain the portfolios of Education and Justice; and the Presidents of the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies, Ziwar Pasha and Mazlum Pasha, have been appointed to act respectively as Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Communications during the absence on leave of Wassef Ghali Pasha, who will in all probability accompany Zaghloul Pasha to London, and of Mustapha Nahass Pasha.

August 2.

Quiet Again.

"The tumult and the shouting dies, the captains and the kings depart." With the sailing of the Lotus all is quiet once more. The crowds which acclaimed Zaghloul Pasha during his stay in Alexandria and on his last drive to the port disappeared as if by magic, and both in Cairo and Alexandria peace reigns again. There will now be a welcome lull for about a month, it is expected, until the time for the MacDonald-Zaghloul meeting approaches, when all manner of rumours will begin to circulate—this is the land of the birth of the canard—and to us will fall the task of finding out whether there is even the shadow of truth in them, and, if so, what the effect on public opinion will be. Already, with Zaghloul Pasha scarcely a day out of Alexandria, we had the first—the statement that possibly a meeting would take place at Vichy itself on the occasion of Mr. MacDonald's visit to Lausanne. As far as can be gathered in official circles, there is at present not the shadow of a foundation for this statement, though it may be that a preliminary interview will take place there.

The Adly-Zaghloul Meeting.

The topic of the hour still seems to be the Adly-Zaghloul meeting. The latter came as a great surprise, though not to those few who knew that when he heard that Adly Pasha had personally called at the hospital and had been hissed by students Zaghloul Pasha had stated that one of his first concerns when he was allowed out would be to return his old friend's visit. For the moment there does not seem to be much prospect of any *rapprochement* between the Constitutional Liberals and the Zaghloulists. The former point out with some justice that so long as they are persecuted there can scarcely be any question of *rapprochement*, and they add that in any event Adly is no longer their leader and his actions do not bind them. Be that as it may, it is a significant fact that the *Siassa*, the organ of the Constitutional Liberals, has markedly trimmed its sails since the meeting. As one ardent Zaghloulist said to me about a leading article published by it this week, "it might really have appeared in *Al Balagh*" (the chief Zaghloulist organ), so favourable to the Zaghloulist cause was its tone—all of which goes a long way towards indicating that those who affirm that Adly Pasha's *rapprochement* with Zaghloul Pasha will have a tempering effect on the situation as between the Constitutional Liberals and the Zaghloulists, may in the end turn out to be right.

The High Commissioner.

Viscount Allenby left this week for England on leave. The King sent his Grand Chamberlain, Said Zulfikar Pasha, to Sidi Gaber station to bid him *bon voyage*. Mr. A. Clark Kerr, Counsellor at the Residency, who has just returned from England, will act as High Commissioner during Lord Allenby's absence.

The Judicial Adviserships.

The contract in virtue of which Sir Maurice Sheldon Amos holds the post of Judicial Adviser expires on November 27 this year, and already there is a good deal of talk with regard to the future of that post and of Sir Maurice himself. The continuation of the Judicial Adviserships, as well as of the Financial Adviserships, it may be remembered, was part of the settlement proposed by the Milner Mission, and in view of the possibility of negotiations taking place this coming autumn in London between Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and Saad Zaghloul Pasha, it is obviously impossible to say at the present moment what arrangement will be made in regard to the Judicial Adviserships, or whether Sir Maurice Amos will continue his connection with the Egyptian Government.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Liubliana, August 3.

The Radical Party.

Although Parliament had been prorogued until October 20 and the National *Bloc* Government—as the Radicals cum Independent Democrats preferred to style their Government—had thereby been enabled to remain in office, it had become more and more obvious that the position was indeed untenable, as the majority in the Skuptshina was definitely opposed to the Pashitch-Pribitchevitch Government. For this reason the Government was no less eager than the Opposition in the search for a satisfactory solution, and during the protracted course of negotiations two possibilities were evolved. The Government, or, more properly speaking, MM. Pashitch and Pribitchevitch, were of the opinion that at the present moment nothing short of a general election would bring forth the desired solution. The Opposition, on the other hand, maintained that the existing Parliament was capable of carrying on, as they, the Opposition, enjoyed a safe majority.

To all appearances, the view held by MM. Pashitch and Pribitchevitch was the only sound one, because in a country with a Parliamentary Government a general election alone offers solution of a position in itself a deadlock. But in Yugoslavia this rule does not altogether hold good at the present moment. In the first place, MM. Pashitch and Pribitchevitch were in favour of a general election solely under the condition that the mandate for it was entrusted into their hands. What that amounts to everybody knows. With the help of the admini-

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strative machinery sufficiently strong pressure would be brought to bear on the electorate to ensure a victory for the Government parties. It was obvious that an election on these lines would only increase, instead of allaying, political animosity in the country, and thereby endanger that consolidation of the State which is Yugoslavia's primary necessity.

If, however, the election were conducted correctly it would certainly not bring about any essential change, and a second election would have to follow, which, in its turn, would again fail to provide a solution.

To this consideration must be added another fact which militated definitely against a general election. Inner political relations in Yugoslavia have reached their present acute stage because the country may be said to suffer from too much talk and too little work. Fresh elections would positively cultivate this defect. How to compel her political parties to leave the spheres of oratory for the fields of practical activity and to group themselves for purposes of work instead of quarrelling over theories is Yugoslavia's great problem.

The King's Solution.

The difficulty was brilliantly solved by King Alexander, who declined to entrust the election mandate to any party before it had been conclusively proved that the present Skuptshina was incapable, and therefore he refused to confer the election mandate on M. Pashitch.

Hence the Radicals were left with the alternative of coming to an arrangement with the Opposition or of passing over to the Opposition themselves, forsaking the Government. But M. Pashitch would not hear of an agreement with the Opposition, partly on impersonal grounds and on principle, considering as he did the Opposition as hostile to the State, and partly for personal and political considerations—these, incidentally, the more decisive ones—in view of the fact that the Opposition was demanding the heads of several Radical deputies. So that the onus of action was thrust on the Opposition.

Most of the Opposition parties are opposed to the present Constitution, and their electoral campaign has always been waged under the banner of Revision of the Constitution. Meantime the Opposition was firmly convinced that they could not possibly undertake the formation of a Government unless they first jettisoned Revisionism, and this they could only afford to do if, as an offset, they could show their electorate important successes in other directions. Therefore the Opposition declared that they would sacrifice their Revisionist programme and accept the Vidovdan Constitution, but demanded a guarantee for the cessation of corruption in any form whatsoever, stating that no one previously involved in a case of corruption would be permitted to become a member of the new Government.

From such plain speaking on the part of the Opposition the Radical deputies concerned knew very well that their hour would come with the conclusion of a compromise between their party and the Opposition, so they left no stone unturned to prevent an agreement, and since many of them are men of wealth and influence, their efforts proved successful. Above all, they succeeded in obtaining M. Pashitch himself—not that that was particularly difficult, for Pashitch's own son is himself in the forefront of personages involved in *affaires* of corruption. The sentimental exploitation of paternal feeling was the introduction, and a very good one, too!

But there was a second and a stronger argument. Compromise with the Opposition would inevitably entail curtailment of M. Pashitch's absolute power, and Pashitch had already become accustomed to looking upon Serbia almost as his own domain, and could not face the prospect of sharing his power.

The majority of the Radical deputies, however, think otherwise, realising that in the interests of the State an agreement with the Opposition is imperative, and that their leader was none other than Liuba Yovanovitch, President of the Skuptshina, a man who enjoyed the respect of the Opposition in addition to that of his own party.

The difference between M. Pashitch and M. Yovanovitch increased, and began to be the source of comment in the Radical Press. Things were bound to come to a head, the alternative being a split in the Radical Party, a contingency all factions were most anxious to avoid.

Then M. Pashitch took an unexpected step and summoned the Central Committee of the Radical Party to Belgrade, calling upon it, instead of the Deputies Club, to decide on the situation. In this M. Pashitch counted upon the fact that the Central Committee included men who were not yet deputies, but were anxious to fill that rôle, and would therefore share his desire for fresh elections and generally side with him. The Deputies Club, on the other hand, included men who were not at all sure of being returned at the next election, and might therefore withhold their support. The result showed that Pashitch had calculated correctly. The Central Committee was for him without being precisely against Yovanovitch, though Pashitch's point of view was the more strongly supported. Taking things all round, the Central Committee expressed itself in favour of fresh elections, and as the Radical Party represented the stronger party, Pashitch requested the King for an election mandate.

This request the King definitely refused to frank, and summoned M. Yovanovitch and Marko Giurichitch, the President of the Radical Deputies Club, and, acting on their advice, entrusted the formation of a Cabinet to M. Davidovitch, the leader of the Opposition. Within four hours M. Davidovitch had duly composed his Cabinet and obtained its sanction by the Crown.

The New Government.

On Sunday evening Belgrade received the news that the formation of a Government by the Opposition was a duly constituted fact, the news creating an unexpected sensation.

The new Government is in the hands of the Democrats (the Davidovitch group, of course, all Serbs throughout), the Koroshets party (Slovenes), and the Spahos (Croat Moslems of Bosnia). It is cer-

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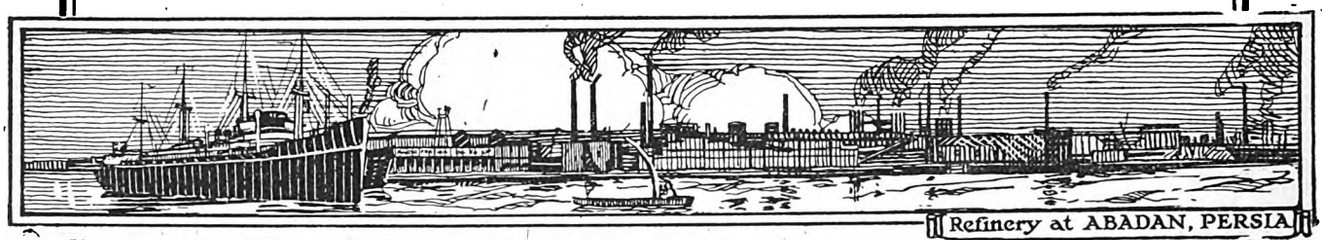

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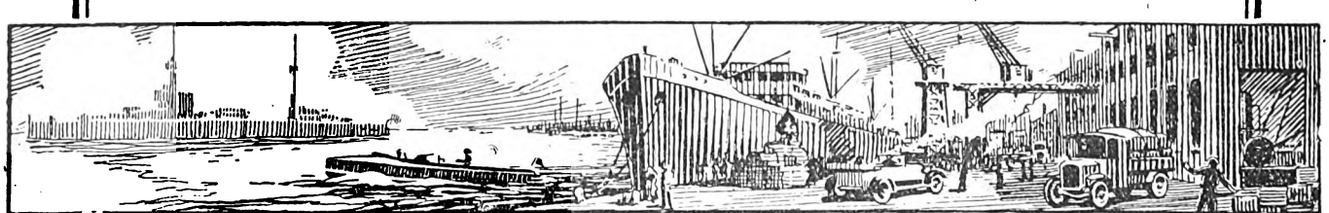

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tain, however, that it will have the party support of the Serbian Zemljoradnici (Agrarians), the Raditch deputies, and the Germans. Its majority in Parliament is therefore assured.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, August 5.

Bolshevists and Macedonians.

It is much to be desired that the real relations between the Macedonians and the Bolshevists should be known. Since Stephan Raditch, the Croatian peasant leader, went to Moscow, there has been much gossip concerning Bolshevist-Macedonian collaboration. The climax was reached last week when *La Fédération Balkanique*, a newspaper appearing at Vienna, contained a manifesto signed by the three Macedonian revolutionary chiefs. This manifesto devoted a great deal of space to abusing the present Bulgarian Government, and it was couched in terms which forcibly suggested that the Macedonians and Bolshevists were working in unison. Local papers reproduced the manifesto, but Macedonians living in Sofia immediately took up the attitude that the whole thing was a hoax and had been issued by the Bolshevists with the intent of driving a wedge between Sofia and the Macedonian Revolutionaries. Up to the time of writing the Macedonian chiefs have remained silent.

At present one must suspend judgment, but if it should turn out to be the case that Macedonians and Bolshevists are allied, then the situation in Bulgaria and the Balkans generally, will become very grave indeed. For not only will Sofia be disturbed at such an alliance; Belgrade and Athens will also find it brings embarrassments.

Bulgaria and Greece.

After a long period of peace and tranquillity, the Bulgarians and the Greeks are once more at each others' throats. The *casus belli* was the massacre of nineteen Bulgarian peasants by (so Bulgaria alleges) Greek officials. As soon as the Mayor of Petritch, the nearest frontier town, reported this occurrence, the Bulgarian Government made an energetic protest to the Greek Legation in Sofia. At the same time the Mixed Emigration Commission, functioning under the auspices of the League of Nations, was requested to proceed to the frontier and make an inquiry on the spot. The Commission left three days ago, but meanwhile the Greek Government has presented its case, which, it is understood, alleges provocation and goes on to recount other outrages committed on Greeks. Locally the affair has made a considerable stir, and it seems indisputable that the nineteen peasants were cruelly put to death. It is a very great pity that such an incident should have occurred, as Bulgaria and Greece can ill afford to quarrel at the present moment. Their interests lie together in combating the common danger, that is to say, Communism. But the unfortunate minorities continue to act as an obstacle to good relations, and it is hard to say how future incidents can be prevented. Doubtless the Athens Government would like to live on good terms with Sofia, but the local authorities come greatly under the influence of the surrounding population, and that is how trouble is engendered. The only hope is that the Mixed Commission by really practical measures will be able to bring about a better atmosphere. But its task is extremely hard, and those that know the Balkans consider its chance of success to be very small.

General News.

M. Romero de Usmet, the Spanish Minister and doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, has been appointed to Belgrade, and will leave Sofia towards the end of August.

The Inter-Allied Military Commission, whose duty it is to delimitate the neutral zone between Turkey and Bulgaria, arrived in Sofia last week. The British representative, Colonel Cornwall, expects to begin his work at the end of this week.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, July 24.

Re-occupation of Sulaimaniyeh.

Some eighteen months or so ago Sheikh Mahmud, Hukumdar of Kurdistan, turned against the Government which had appointed him, and the English had hurriedly to evacuate Kurdistan and its capital, Sulaimaniyeh. Mahmud failed to make good as an independent ruler, but as long as he had any following at all, neither the British nor the Arab Government evinced any desire to reoccupy that difficult and mountainous country. Early in May occurred the outbreak among the Assyrian Levies (Christians), during which some fifty Muslims of Kirkuk were killed. Sheikh Mahmud seized upon this event as a chance to retrieve his wavering fortunes, and by preaching a *jehad* to unite the whole of Kurdistan against the infidel foe. As the dangers of a *jehad* are always great, and as any signal success to Sheikh Mahmud's arms might have encouraged the Turks to cross Iraq's northern frontier, it was decided to take punitive action against him. This took the form, after due warning had been given to the inhabitants, of an intensive aerial bombardment of Sulaimaniyeh and Sheikh Mahmud's headquarters. The result of this effective action was that Mahmud was deprived of what little influence he had left. Still, the British authorities remained chary of reoccupying Kurdistan. But as no better opportunity was ever likely to occur again, as the people of the country prayed for deliverance from Sheikh Mahmud's tyranny, and as failure to set up some form of administration would have resulted in Kurdistan being a continual future source of trouble—more acute even than before—to Iraq, it was eventually decided to reoccupy the country. Cavalry of the Iraq Army, Iraq Levies, Police, armoured cars and other R.A.F. units, all formed part of the column detailed for these operations, which ended in an unopposed entry into Sulaimaniyeh on July 19. Sheikh Mahmud is at present a fugitive. All appears to be quiet in Kurdistan, and a civil administration is being rapidly set up.

The Cabinet.

It was definitely stated that after the Eed the Cabinet would fall. So certain of this was general opinion that the Ministers ceased to attend their ministries, while the expectant Ministers, if they did not actually seat themselves in the vacated offices, visited their future colleagues and held long unofficial discussions. The end of the Eed has come and gone, and the fall of the Cabinet appears to have been postponed for three or four weeks until the King's return from a short holiday in, it is said, Palestine. Some attribute the continued existence of the present Cabinet to His Majesty's indisposition, others to disagreement as to who should take up the various portfolios. There appears to be no doubt that the new Prime Minister will be Yassin Pasha, one of the leaders of the anti-Treaty party. Abdul Muhsin Beg as Sa'dun, who was Premier immediately before Ja'afer Pasha, is expected to take Interior, while Finance will go to Sir Heskail Sassoon, who, except during the time of the present Cabinet, has held that position since the formation of the Arab Government.

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PERSIA.

Teheran, July 21.

The Murder of the American Consul.

The "miracle" to which I alluded in my last letter has been the cause of a tragic and most regrettable incident, resulting in the death last Friday of the American Consul, Major Imbrie, and the serious wounding of another American named Seymour. It appears that in the morning Major Imbrie, wishing to take a photograph of the drinking fountain at the side of the street, at which the "miracle" is supposed to have happened, went there with Seymour and a Legation messenger. On arrival at the place, which had been decorated with carpets and ornaments since the miraculous event, they found there the large crowd, including women, which continuously visit the place. They were advised not to take the photographs, and warned that it would be better to leave the spot. Major Imbrie, apparently not grasping what was meant (he had only been here two or three months and did not know the language) did not see why he should not take the photographs, and proceeded to do so, whereupon some of the crowd threw stones at him. The party then got into a cab and drove off, being followed by the crowd, which naturally increased as it proceeded, shouting out the ludicrous accusation, which they had by now trumped up as an excuse, that the *feranghees* had poisoned the water in the fountain and that two women had died after drinking it! The cab had nearly reached the police hospital when some soldiers (an officer among them), who were drinking tea at a shop, saw the crowd following it and heard the accusation, whereupon they stopped the cab and brutally attacked the Americans with their sabres and bayonets, the crowd joining in with sticks, stones, and any other weapon available. After some time the police managed to rescue the party (though it is significant that during all this time not a single shot was fired by them), and took them into the hospital, but no sooner had they started attending to their wounds than the mob broke their way in and continued their brutal attacks on their victims, until the police eventually succeeded in driving them out. By this time both Major Imbrie and Seymour were frightfully cut about and battered, and the former died shortly afterwards, the latter being still alive, and hopes are entertained of his recovery.

I have heard from a doctor, who served in the War, and who saw the victims in the hospital, that although he had seen all kinds of wounds and mutilations on the battlefield he had never come across anything to equal the present case for the number and variety of the wounds inflicted (it is said that Major Imbrie received no less than forty sabre and bayonet wounds in his body and on his head) and the sheer savagery which must have prompted them. The news of the outrage soon spread through the town and naturally caused the greatest consternation among the American and European communities, with whom Major Imbrie was a general favourite, the revolting nature of the murder added to the horror of the crime. The Prime Minister, Sardar Sepah, immediately started to investigate the matter, and did not leave the town for his country residence till late at night, and came down at dawn the next day, during the course of which many arrests were made. These still continue, and I understand that close upon 300 persons have been arrested.

The funeral service took place at the American Presbyterian Mission's chapel at 5 on Saturday afternoon, and seldom have I seen such a crowd there. The street outside the chapel was lined with infantry and cavalry with a band, provided by the Minister of War, who was himself present with his Staff and the Cabinet Ministers in their Court dress of Kashmir robes. The entire *corps diplomatique* also attended in uniform, and the church was literally packed with Persian notables and high dignitaries and members of the American and European communities; in fact, everybody who is anybody in Teheran society was present, and a crowd of people of all nationalities and religions who could not gain admittance waited outside. After the service the Prime Minister followed the coffin on foot to the gate of the church, whence it was taken to the Protestant Cemetery outside the town, though the body has been embalmed and will later be sent to America.

After the service all the diplomatic representatives here assembled and drew up a collective Note to the Persian Government, which they all signed, including the Afghan and Russian Ministers, expressing horror at the outrage, and stating that they could not consider the Persian Government free from blame, pointing out that although the attacks on Major Imbrie lasted three-quarters of an hour the police never fired a single shot, even over the heads of the crowd, which most probably would have dispersed had this been done, nor could the authorities even succeed in keeping the crowd from breaking into the hospital and putting the finishing touches to their murderous attacks, in which the evidence of witnesses proved that several soldiers took part. The Note was delivered to the Persian Government on Sunday evening by the Turkish Ambassador, as senior member of the diplomatic corps, on behalf of his colleagues, and several Cabinet meetings have been held to discuss the Government's reply. The Note impresses on the Government the necessity for taking adequate measures to ensure the future safety and protection of the foreign minority and non-Moslem residents in Persia, and although the reply to the Note has not yet been received it is understood that the Foreign Office has already addressed a circular letter to all the Legations here expressing regret at the outrage and stating that the authorities have taken the necessary steps to prevent a recurrence of such attacks. On Saturday evening, after the funeral, the town was placed under martial law, and everything is quiet. The drinking fountain, which was the cause of all the trouble, has been dismantled of all its decorations. Ever since the tragic event *pourparlers* have been taking place between Dr. Kornfeld and the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, but apparently no reply has yet been received from Washington as to the American Government's demands from the Persian Government and the compensation required for Major Imbrie's widow, with whom the greatest sympathy is naturally felt. All the local papers express their denunciation of the crime, which they say is but the work of a few irresponsible ruffians, and must therefore not be laid at the door of the Persian Government, whom they exhort to do their utmost to bring the perpetrators to justice, and they trust that the outrage may not impair the friendly relations existing between Persia and America.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

August 14, 1924 (New Style).
August 1, 1924 (Old Style).
Muharram 13, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Ab 14, 5684, of the Jewish Calendar.

Ras Taffari, Regent of Abyssinia, will arrive in Athens on the 17th inst.

M. C. Collas, Counsellor at the Greek Legation, has returned to London from Switzerland.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby is visiting Viscount and Viscountess Astor at Cliveden.

The Egyptian Prince Yussef Kemal has arrived at Loedingen, Northern Norway, on board his yacht Naz Perwar.

Mahmoud Sabet Bey, First Secretary at the Egyptian Legation, with Mme. Sabet, has left London for Berne.

Mr. Norman Nairn, of the Nairn Transport Service, has returned to London from America, and intends to sail for Beyrout on August 25.

Commander Sir Gerald F. Talbot, formerly Naval Attaché at the British Legation in Athens, returned to London last week from France.

M. Vidosav Anjelkovitch, Secretary at the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, has left London on leave for Belgrade.

Mirza Seyed Ziaod-Din, formerly Persian Prime Minister, and M. Aminol-Mulk, a former member of the Persian Cabinet, left London last week for Paris.

The Egyptian Minister, Mme. Izzet, and Abdulla Izzet have left London for Zurich. Mohammed Fehmy Hussein Bey, Counsellor, will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

The Crown Princess of Roumania and her sister, Princess Irene of Greece, have left London for Paris. The Crown Prince is prolonging his visit here for several days.

Sir Edward and Lady Boyle have left London for Italy, and will subsequently undertake a tour in the Balkan States. They expect to be back in England at the end of October.

Sir Valentine Chirol, who has been delivering a course of lectures in the University of Chicago on "The Relations between the Occident and the Orient," is due to return to London this week.

Monsieur Stancioff, Bulgarian Minister to the Court of St. James's, was received in farewell audience of the King on August 12. At the close of the audience Monsieur and Madame Stancioff were received by Queen Mary.

The King has given Captain Marcus Winslow Huish, Royal Artillery, authority to wear the insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred on him by the King of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered while employed with the Egyptian Army.

Sahibzada Aftab Ahmad Khan, Vice-President of the Secretary of State's Council, is due to complete his seven years' membership of that body in the middle of November, but has retired, and has left for India to devote himself to honorary work in promotion of Moslem education on the lines associated with Sir Syad Ahman Khan.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

It is officially announced that the King has approved the transfer to the Madras High Court, in the vacancy created by the promotion of Mr. Justice V. M. Coutts Trotter to be Chief Justice of Madras, of Mr. Justice H. O. C. Beasley, of the Burma High Court.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes (August 5) :—
The newly appointed Bulgarian Minister to London, M. Haji Misheff, is expected to take up his new post about the middle of August. M. Misheff is a former diplomatist, and was in London in 1914. Recently he has been holding an important business appointment, and he is regarded as being one of the ablest Bulgarians who could have been chosen to fill the London vacancy.

THE HOLY PLACES IN PALESTINE.

In virtue of the Palestine (Holy Places) Order in Council, 1924, made on July 25 and published in the *London Gazette* of August 1, no cause or matter in connection with the Holy Places or religious buildings or sites in Palestine or the rights or claims relating to the different religious communities in Palestine shall be heard or determined by any Court in Palestine. This will not affect the jurisdiction of the local Religious Courts.

At a meeting of the Senate of London University on July 23, an offer was accepted with thanks from the Roumanian Government to establish at King's College Lectureships in: (*a*) The History of Roumania and the Near East, and (*b*) Roumanian Language and Literature for a period of three years.

Kemal-ed Din Sami Pasha has been appointed Turkish Ambassador to Berlin.

Lord Goschen, Governor of Madras, has decided to appeal to the Lord Mayor of London to open a fund for the sufferers from floods in Southern India.

The King has approved the appointment of the Maharaja Bahadur of Krishnagarh to be a Member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bengal in succession to Mr. Bhupendranath Basu, who, owing to ill-health, has asked to be relieved of his duties.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1924.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN YUGOSLAVIA.

Nowhere will the fortunes of the new Government in Yugoslavia be watched with greater sympathy than in Great Britain. There is no desire to take sides in that country's domestic affairs; indeed, the difficulty experienced in understanding them prevents any such tendency. It has been one of the chief disappointments in connection with Near Eastern affairs since the Great War that the close ties of friendship cemented by comradeship in arms have been gradually loosened by the inability of Britons to grasp the trend of Yugoslavia's troubled politics. Fitted by geographical position and resources, as well as by the intelligence and virility of her people, to take a leading part in the Balkans, Yugoslavia seems to have wasted her opportunity owing to a perversity that is far from being national. Her Governments have seemed more concerned to make her feared in the Balkans than liked, regardless of the fact that this policy could not possibly bring her to any profitable goal, but must, on the other hand, prevent her from assuming the position for which she appears to be marked by destiny. The solitary flash of sound judgment which prompted an agreement with Italy served only to throw into bolder relief the failure to play a really leading part in the Peninsula. Although justification for the Little Entente can be urged, its effect has been to distract Yugoslav attention from the better rôle that awaits the country when it can concentrate upon the affairs of South-Eastern Europe to the exclusion of those of Central Europe. All this time it was seen that the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes was suffering from an internal malady, and it was as if the only chance of relief came from distractions without. Hence the interest attaching to the present change of Government; for if it should be the case that, with the advent to power of the parties in opposition to M. Pashitch and his Radicals, Yugoslavia attains domestic peace, there would be some ground for hoping that her foreign policy will set more store on the cultivation of friendly relations with her neighbours, with a view to practical co-operation in the sphere of economic reconstruction. Not that lip-homage to the cause of peace has been wanting in the past; but practice lagged a long way behind profession, until Yugoslavia had earned the reputation of being almost the most sabre-rattling country in Europe.

M. Davidovitch's task will not be an easy one. In the first place, he has to make sure of the support of a majority in the Skupshtina, as it is the basis of his understanding with King Alexander that he should carry on the administration of the country for a period without recourse to a general election. Political support in the Balkans is, as a rule, to be had only in return for very definite concessions, and it remains to be seen whether the different parties now in alliance with M. Davidovitch and his Democrats will be content with the participation in the Government that their seats in the Cabinet give them, without seeking for other more direct advantages for their political organisations. If there has been any sincerity in the charges that they have brought against M. Pashitch, they must at least give evidence of a resolve to govern impartially, with no other end in view than the country's good. It will be a novel experience for Serbia to be under a Ministry with a majority of non-Serbs in it; consequently, if M. Davidovitch's Cabinet can set a precedent of strict impartiality as between the various elements of the Triune Kingdom, and achieves nothing else, it will have done much for the future success of Yugoslavia. Among the domestic questions calling for attention, the foremost will be that of a working agreement with the Croats. At a meeting of the Croat Peasant Party in Zagreb it was decided to support the Davidovitch Ministry in the Skupshtina "so long as the Government carries on its work in accordance with the spirit and principles of the *Bloc*," and the Croat Deputies have taken their seats in full strength. At the same time, in recording their approval of what M. Raditch has done in Moscow, by arranging for the formal adhesion of the Croat Peasant Party to the Peasant International, the delegates at Zagreb will have aroused many misgivings in the minds of others now associated politically with them. There would seem, however, to be no desire in Croatia to proselytise in the rest of Yugoslavia, and, provided that the Croatians' ambition to manage their own affairs can be shown to involve no weakening of Yugoslavia in her international position, it should not be difficult to persuade the majority of the Serbs that the attainment of domestic harmony is well worth a compromise on the subject of centralisation.

A problem that will demand a greater measure of statesmanship on the part of the new Ministry when the Croat question has been settled is the amelioration of the lot of national minorities. In recognising the existence of this problem, M. Davidovitch has made a notable advance on the attitude of M. Pashitch and his Foreign Minister, M. Nintchitch, who persisted in maintaining that there was no such thing as a Macedonian or a Montenegrin question in Yugoslavia. To express a desire to discuss their affairs with these minorities does not entail capitulation to their extreme demands. It may well be that these demands have become extreme because they have never been subjected to the cold logic of a friendly conference. Certainly no harm can be done by trying to discover whether a *modus vivendi* cannot be evolved without prejudice to the strength and solidarity of the Yugoslav Kingdom. Balkan Governments have a tendency to be content to live from hand to mouth. No Ministry seems to contemplate a long enough life to make it worth its while to pay serious attention to anything but immediate domestic needs, the meeting of which is expected to react favourably on its tenure of office. Both the question of minorities and that of Yugoslavia's relations with her Balkan neighbours have a far wider bearing than merely on the political fortunes of the Cabinet in power. They affect the well-being of the whole country for many years ahead, and until they are settled satisfactorily no Ministry can have any claim on the lasting gratitude of the Yugoslav people. M. Pashitch is not the only Prime Minister in Europe who has had occasion to learn that no record of service during the War has availed to retrieve mistakes of omission in the more difficult post-War period. He can show that the first necessity of the new State was a Constitution, and his long experience may have satisfied him that only a highly centralised system of government could answer Yugoslavia's special

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requirements. Unfortunately for him, the tendency of his own people as well as of other nations has been, since the War, to break away from precedent and the old lines of reasoning, in order to experiment with new theories and new methods. He has proved himself without an equal among his countrymen in parliamentary tactics, but has been incapable of adjusting his political ideas to the new lines of thought. It would be rash to conclude that he has necessarily held office for the last time. The outside world, however, has ceased to look to him for any constructive policy which might win merit for Yugoslavia in a distracted Balkan Peninsula, and it waits with considerable interest to see whether the advent to power of the Opposition parties will enable Yugoslavia to do herself more credit. The heavy hand has failed, and the time is ripe for statesmanship. Yugoslav capacity is equal to any demands that can be made upon it; the test of good government is to give effect to that capacity.

KURMANJY AND THE KURDS.

By V. STEPHAN.

Kurmanjy, or the Kurdish language, is derived from an old Persian dialect intermixed with Arabic. In the north-east of Kurdistan this is further diluted with Syriac words, and in the south is modified by a Turanian dialect. Kurmanjy is the language spoken by the Kurds, but it is also used by a large number of people, among whom are the non-Kurdish inhabitants of Kurdistan, Armenia, the eastern districts of Asia Minor, the south-western frontiers of Persia, the Afghan-Persian frontiers, the most northerly outskirts of Syria, and the northern provinces of Mesopotamia down to Mosul and its sub-districts; so that, in all, from six to eight millions speak the language.

In the heart of Kurdistan the Christian Protestant congregations hold their religious services, sing hymns, read the Bible in Kurmanjy. The Yazidees, or devil worshippers, also recite their prayers in Kurmanjy.

Kurdistan, which is a very charming part of Asia, extends on the one hand from Mosul district to the mountain fastnesses of Erzerum, and, on the other, from the Arabian Desert to the Kurds' own mountain ranges in the east. It is about 40,000 square miles, and its population exceeds two millions. It is very rich in antiquarian ruins of the Parthian, Macedonian, and Roman periods, most of which are still unexamined. It has also a wealth of ancient legends and poems. The climate is moderate, and there is no excessive heat. It is a very fertile land, which yields corn, hemp, flax, cotton, fruits of many kinds, and a profusion of flowers. The forests of oaks and fruit-bearing trees clothe a great part of the land. Manna, the sweetmeat mentioned in the Bible, may be gathered from the oak trees and the rocks of Kurdistan.

The Kurds trace their origin back to the Turanian Kurds, or Gutu, who were a powerful people in the time of the Assyrians. Later they merged with the Medes and were Aryanised. The Arab historians consider the Kurds to be of Arabian origin and to belong to the Beni Ma-El-Sama tribe.

The Kurds profess Islam, but in a loose and unorthodox fashion; their women, with the exception of those of the very highest rank, do not wear the veil. They are well practised in the use of arms, being much given to internal strife and brigandage; but, in spite of this, they are hospitable to strangers, faithful to their friends, and have a very strict sense of honour. As they are Moslems, the Turkish Government used to play them off against their Christian subjects, and many thousands of innocent Armenians, Assyrian Christians (Nestorians), Greeks, and even the Yezidees, have fallen, at different times, victims to Turkish treachery at the hands of the Kurds, whom they instigated to carry out every kind of atrocity.

The exterminations in the years 1915 and 1916 of the Armenians and Greeks in Asia Minor and the Assyrian Christians in Kurdistan were carried out, as before, with the help of the Kurds.

The Kurds, although nominally subject to the Turkish and Persian Governments, are intolerant of these masters, and are actually governed by their own chiefs. And since Kurdistan is a mountainous country, it is well adapted to be the home of this rebellious race. Several attempts have been made at different periods to free themselves from the Turks and to found an independent Kurdish Principality, but these attempts have proved unsuccessful.

The Kurds possess a considerable literature, although Kurmanjy has no alphabet of its own. The British and Foreign Bible Society translated and published the New Testament into Kurmanjy in Armenian characters, and parts of the New Testament have been printed in Arabic characters. But the letters of neither language reproduce accurately the sounds of Kurmanjy. The Turks, in order to fill up this gap, in the year 1913 published in Constantinople a monthly review called *Rozhi Kordan*, or "The Times of the Kurds," in which an attempt was made to give the right pronunciation of Kurmanjy by using certain signs to represent the vowels. But this, like many another Turkish plan, proved sterile.

The true object of the *Rozhi Kordan* was to Turkicise the Kurds, and with this end they also opened a school in Constantinople for the sons of the Kurdish chiefs and Aghas. This school had two aims, one apparent and the other real. The Porte wished it to be known that it was greatly concerned with the education of the sons of these chiefs, but the true purpose of this school was to detain the children as hostages for the good behaviour of their fathers toward the Turkish Government. If any chief should dare to revolt, his sons would be at the mercy of the Turks.

On the Turco-Persian frontier of Kurdistan, and more especially in the Hakkary district, the Kurds are the real rulers of the Christians, who pay them an annual tax in grain, clothes, and money, and the like. The Kurd, when addresing a Christian, calls him *Felahi min*, i.e., "My Christian."

The writer of this short account of the Kurmanjy and the Kurds has compiled a Kurdish-English

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dictionary, and that the Kurmanjy is a branch of the Aryan family of languages may be proved by the list of words given below. It will be seen that they are wholly or partly akin in their pronunciation and meaning to their English equivalents:—Egg, *heg;* turtle, *tertol;* chin, *chin;* Jew, *Jehew;* better, *behter;* star, *ster;* here, *her* or *hera;* new, *noo;* gaiter, *geeter;* angry, *aniry;* borax, *borank;* no, *no;* aunt, *ant;* mine, *min;* hush, *hosh;* to pass, *darbass;* shame, *sharm;* leg, *ling;* short, *cort;* cup, *cop.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

ALBANIA

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—In the issue of The Near East of July 31st, there appeared an interesting article, written by an unsigned correspondent, on the subject of Albania and the recent revolution. Its conclusion is sadly pessimistic. There is, however, another side to the picture, and this, together with certain criticisms, I will try to represent.

First, I think it is unfair to say that Albania is only a nation in name. It is true that national consciousness, apart from local tribal consciousness, is of comparatively recent growth. But to say that it does not exist is a gross overstatement. The same kind of overstatement was common, as numerous documents testify, with regard to Italy in the years immediately following her union; in fact only now, since the World War, after sixty years of national unity, can Italy be said to have developed a really deep national consciousness such as we know it in older nations like England and France. Nevertheless to deny Italian national consciousness at the time of the Risorgimento would be an unwarranted exaggeration. It was a sentiment deeply animating the makers of the revolution, while the people followed the movement breathlessly and hopefully, but as yet only dimly conscious of its meaning. The same may be said of Albania. The traditions in Italy have been preponderantly local and imperial rather than national; and the new Italy possessed the legacy of a long and varied civilisation. If we take away the imperial tradition and this legacy of past civilisations, the case of Albania is strictly parallel. Throughout the length and breadth of the country, quite apart from the politician class and the local chiefs, are to be found innumerable persons, humble persons, school teachers, priests of all denominations, doctors and lawyers, passionately devoted to the idea of a united Albania, ready to make every sacrifice for the idea, and justly confident that this idea interprets a longing, however semi-conscious it may be, stirring the heart of the masses of the people.

In the second place, while your correspondent describes very accurately the origin, constitution, and nature of the "Clique," it is incorrect to say that the recent revolution was engineered by the "Clique." This is easy to prove, for hardly any of the prominent leaders of the revolution belong to it. Bishop Fan Noli, now Prime Minister, and the leader of the revolution, does not belong to the "Clique," and has never belonged to it. The same may be said of Guraquki, the next revolutionary leader in order of importance and influence. Nor are the military leaders of the revolution, Colonel Shala, Colonel Kiafzezi and Major Shefget Kortcha, Commander of the Gendarmerie, members of the "Clique." On the other hand, several prominent members of the "Clique" continued to support Ahmet Zogu to the last. The latter's Minister of War, Colonel Aranita, is a member, and it was his dismissal which the revolutionaries, before resort was made to arms, demanded as the first condition of a compromise. Eshref Frasheri, to give a final example, was the chief leader of the "Clique," and he has always been a loyal friend of Ahmet Zogu, and played the latter's game as President of the Chamber. The truth is that the "Clique" has for some time past counted for nothing. Ahmet Zogu, when he left the "Clique," split it after climbing to power on its shoulders; and having contributed to its destruction as a political force, he had no other alternative than to lean more and more on the big Beys. There was no room for his personal ambition—the ambition of an autocrat—within the ranks of the so-called Democratic Party (Fan Noli and his friends); consequently the Beys became his natural allies, poor enough though they turned out to be, as your correspondent justly points out.

Your correspondent's sketch of Ahmet's character is well enough as far as it goes. Mention of his overweening personal ambition—the key to his character—is, however, a most astounding omission. If Ahmet were a man of culture, and if patriotism were a sentiment with him overruling his craving for power, perhaps it would have been good for Albania to submit to his autocracy. But, unfortunately, he has not these qualities; and, in default of a leader having these qualities, autocracy would be the worst thing for Albania. In the case of Ahmet, whose influence was confined to Central Albania, his success would have inevitably led either to a partition of the country or an Italian occupation.

My conclusion is not so pessimistic as that of your correspondent. The new Government may prove to be a Government of idealogues. That is the danger. But that they are men with better brains, greater patriotism, and a more Western outlook than any former Government of Albania is unquestionable. Surrounded by enemies, it may prove true that Albania cannot survive without external aid. Left to herself, I have no hesitation in saying she would, in the course of a generation, achieve a stable government. It is only to be expected that a new State, before achieving a stable government, should pass through a period of unrest. If only Europe had insisted on giving her her natural eastern frontier, she would have been independent of trouble in the rest of the Balkans: she would have been easier to defend, richer, and less liable to give occasion for attack. Her back would have been put to the Balkans and the process of her deorientalisation and stabilisation would have been easier and swifter. As it is, trouble in Macedonia may involve her. In this Italy is her natural protector. This fact may lead to Italy becoming her master. But I do not think it will lead to her dismemberment, for Italy's interest (and Italy is no longer frightened of the responsi-

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bility of safeguarding her interests) lies in maintaining and extending Albanian territory.

In these circumstances, should the present Government fail, probably the best thing for Albania would be an Italian mandate. But will the present Government fail? Bishop Fan Noli is an able man, and has already won the esteem of the League of Nations. I understand that it is his intention to ask the League to help his country somewhat in the same manner as Austria and Hungary have been helped—i.e., by means of a loan and financial control. After all, the creation of Albania was the work of the big Powers, and it is their duty to complete this work by giving the necessary financial assistance. If this is done, and in the proper way, by fully respecting, on the one hand, Albanian sovereignty and, on the other, Italy's paramount interests, I do not think we may be too pessimistic about Albania's future. There is no reason to despair even without this assistance; for although there are some ugly signs in the Balkans, many years may pass without the bursting of a storm, and time with peace is what Albania chiefly requires.

I am, etc.,

J. S. Barnes.

Switzerland, August 8.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

SOME PALESTINE GUIDE-BOOKS.

"COOK'S TRAVELLER'S HANDBOOK FOR PALESTINE AND SYRIA." New edition, revised by Harry Charles Luke, B.Litt., M.A. With an Appendix by Professor J. Garstang, M.A., B.Litt. (London. Price 15s. net.)

"GUIDE TO THE HOLY LAND." By Father Barnabas Meistermann. Second Edition. (London: Burns, Oates, and Washbourne, Ltd. Price 10s. 6d.)

"BLACK'S GUIDE TO JERUSALEM." By E. A. Reynolds-Ball. (London: A. and C. Clark, Ltd. Third Edition.)

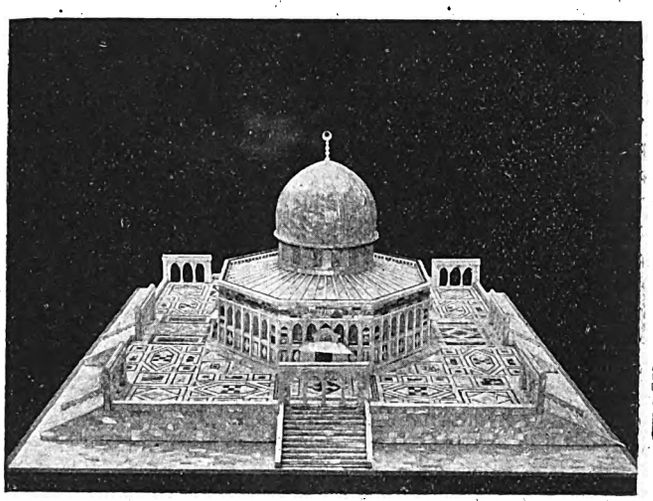
"CALVARY AND THE HOLY SEPULCHRE." By P. Stacy Waddy. (London and Oxford: A. R. Mowbray and Co., Ltd. Price 2s. paper, 3s. cloth).

The practically simultaneous appearance of four guide-books dealing with the Holy Land is a testimony to the altered conditions in Palestine which have rendered a visit to the country a comparatively simple matter. Before the War the visitor who did not fancy a trek by camel across Sinai had to face the journey by sea to Jaffa, with the possibility of finding the weather too bad to allow him to land at that open roadstead. The big tourist steamers, it is true, may still bring their hundreds of passengers to the Palestine coast, but for the majority of travellers, to whom the guide-books appeal, the ordinary route is now by train from Kantara, with a change at Lydda (Ludd) Junction for Jerusalem. The enhanced accessibility of the Holy Land has had a marked influence on the number of travellers visiting it since the War. There has been a slight improvement in the Jerusalem hotels, but much remains to be done before the standard of comfort set, for instance, in Egypt has been approximated in Palestine. What has, perhaps, revolutionised travel in the country more than anything else is the construction of good roads between the main centres of population, rendering motor traffic not only possible, but also tolerably comfortable. Roads suitable for motoring now connect Jaffa-Jerusalem-Jericho, Jerusalem-Bethlehem, Jerusalem-Nablus-Nazareth-Tiberias, Haifa-Tyre-Sidon-Beyrout-Tripoli, and Beyrout-Damascus.

Of the four books before us, Cook's Handbook and Father Meistermann's Guide are comprehensive guides to Palestine and Syria; the other two, as their titles indicate, are mainly concerned with the Holy City, and to this extent supplement the information given by the first regarding Jerusalem. Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son are to be congratulated on having secured Mr. Luke as editor for their volume; the co-operation has produced a volume thoroughly informative, and at the same time with a literary flavour wherever opportunity offers. Everyone contemplating a long stay in Palestine, or wishing to travel extensively over the country and neighbouring territories, will be glad to have such a complete compendium to help him not only to plan his movements to the best advantage, but also to understand and appreciate what is seen. The historical narratives are carefully written, and the scriptural references have not been omitted. The measure of the extent to which it is up to date is indicated by the fact that a description is given of the Desert Motor Route to Baghdad opened up by the Nairn Transport Company; and to this unique service, which brings Iraq within a couple of days of Palestine, we owe the inclusion in the volume of a section devoted to Mesopotamia. Thus, when advantage is taken of this desert route as an alternative method of reaching India, Cook's Handbook will serve as a complete guide to the traveller for the land journey from Port Said via Damascus and Baghdad to Basrah, where the steamer for India will be taken. In subsequent editions it might be well to introduce a few more maps and plans. In response to the editor's request that his attention should be called to any errors, we may mention that the title of the Anglican Bishop (p. 79) is usually given as the Bishop *in* Jerusalem, and that the route to Baghdad on the map facing p. 289 is not the one followed by the Desert Mail, which strikes the Euphrates at Ramadi. On page 25 a reference to the theory which identifies the Khabiri with the Hebrews will be missed by many readers, especially as the historical sections of the book have been so carefully compiled. On p. 100 the Khalif Hakim is credited with a sinister reign lasting 197 years, from 974 to 1171.

Father Meistermann's Guide is written exclusively for Roman Catholics, so much so that Protestant visitors would look in vain in the Index for any reference to the Cathedral of St. George, which is dismissed in a single sentence under the heading "Religious Houses: Eastern Rites." *(sic)*. Twelfth on the list come "Protestant Anglicans," and the words: "Residence of

THE DOME OF THE ROCK.



This replica of the Dome of the Rock, marvellously made of pure mother-of-pearl shell by Messrs. Issa Batarse, of Bethlehem, is to be seen in the Palestine Pavilion of the British Empire Exhibition. It is a beautiful specimen of native handicraft, and is priced at 500 guineas. Messrs. H. and S. King and Sons are the selling agents.

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the bishop, with church and Anglican college, north of the town." The section dealing with Jerusalem covers very fully for Catholic devotional purposes all the traditions centring in the Holy City. The book is admirably equipped with maps and plans, and in this respect serves as a model of what a guide-book should contain. A bad mistake is made in attributing to Great Britain a mandate over the Hejaz.

The volume published by Messrs. A. and C. Black is a practical guide to Jerusalem and its environs, a term which is extended to include towns as far north as Damascus. It contains plans of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Temple, and has four illustrations in colour by John Fulleylove. It deals succinctly with the major and minor sights of Jerusalem and may be recommended as a handy volume for a short stay.

A subject that invariably engages the attention of every visitor to Jerusalem is the authenticity of the Holy Sites. The reports of collisions between the adherents of the different religious sects, the atmosphere of intolerance that pervades the attitude of these sects to one another, the tendency to commercialise the sites, and the undisguised bias of a guide may all tend to create in the mind of a visitor the idea that he is being asked to acquiesce in a conspiracy of make-belief. To anyone perturbed by such thoughts a perusal of these books may be commended. They agree in accepting the traditional site of the Holy Sepulchre, and set out the reasons which justify this conclusion. Father Meistermann naturally accepts for devotional uses all the traditions of the Latin Church. Canon Waddy approaches the subject in a spirit that was not to be expected in an ordinary guide. His Handbook contains much information that will be found in other books, but it is presented more concisely, and for the benefit of the pilgrim rather than of the tourist. It is intended, in his own words, for the visitor whose main purpose in going to Jerusalem is devotional, and few who read it will fail to come, as the author is at the time of writing, under the spell of the Holy Places.

The controversy over the site of the Holy Sepulchre turns largely on the position of the walls of Jerusalem in the time of our Lord. Calvary was then just outside the walls, and as the city is known to have spread northward, there is nothing improbable in the theory that the wall of that date ran south of the traditional site of the Tomb. The remains of such a wall have been discovered, and this fact inevitably strengthens the tradition which has connected the present site with Christ's Tomb from the days when Hadrian is said to have selected it as the site for a Temple of Venus. The tradition for its substantiation requires that Hadrian should have been correctly informed of the site of the Tomb when he built his Temple, and that Constantine or his mother, Helena, should have correctly located the site of the Temple. It is true that at the time when these three books were published, the weight of evidence seemed to support the tradition. Now, however, in July, 1924, comes a new Jerusalem discovery which identifies a stone found outside the Garden Tomb as part of a shrine of Venus, and the supporters of the theory that Gordon's Calvary is the site of the real Tomb are correspondingly encouraged. Whether the discovery will necessitate the re-writing of the guide-books on Jerusalem remains to be seen. Happy is the visitor to Palestine who can derive from the "atmosphere" of the Holy Land all the moral uplift that he comes to gain. Controversy cannot rob him of that, rage it never so furiously over the authenticity of this or that piece of ground.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Cambridge Ancient History. Vol. II.: The Egyptian and Hittite Empires to 1000 B.C." (London: Cambridge University Press. 35s. net.)

"A Handbook for Travellers in India, Burma, and Ceylon. (London: John Murray. 24s. net.)

"The Journal of the Palestine Oriental Society." Vol. IV.: No. 1-2. (Jerusalem: Palestine Oriental Society.)

THE ARMENIANS IN LONDON.

The Armenian community of London has just fulfilled a duty of gratitude and respect to a noble Englishwoman—Miss Emily J. Robinson, the founder and hon. secretary of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugees' Fund. This fund was started by Miss Robinson, and, like other War funds, was registered under the War Charities Act. Almost single-handed and without any office or secretarial expenses, Miss Robinson carried on her great humanitarian work for nine years, until her health broke down and by her doctor's orders she had to rest. With an exemplary determination and self-sacrifice she raised over thirty thousand pounds for the maintenance of Armenian orphans and refugees, besides relief in kind to nearly the same value.

Miss Robinson is the daughter of the late Sir John Robinson, for many years manager and editor of the *Daily News*.

At a representative gathering at the Langham Hotel, W., which included several English friends, the chairman of the Armenian Community paid a well-merited tribute to this devoted lady, and presented her with a beautiful illuminated Address, conveying the feelings of gratitude of the community and of the Armenian people in general.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Government and Russia.

It might almost be thought from the feverish activity of the Labour Government at the close of the Session that they were anxious to escape from the charge of not having accomplished enough during their period of office. No one would object to a show of energy in innocuous directions, but it would take much more persuading than the Prime Minister is capable of to induce people to believe that the developments in regard to Russia are either desirable or necessary. The negotiations with the Russian delegation, after lasting for a considerable period, came to an inconclusive end for the very good reason that no other outcome was possible. The development of normal relations with Russia is essential in the interests of world commerce; but while the methods of the present rulers are unchanged it is difficult to imagine an understanding that can benefit anyone but Russia. However, the Prime Minister thought otherwise, intervened, and, succeeded in bringing about an agreement which, whatever other claims it may have to distinction, will certainly be remembered as one of the most remarkable documents in history. What verdict Parliament will pass on the agreement is another matter, and it is quite possible, in view of the tone of the strictures passed in the House last week, it will fail to gain acceptance, in which case a curious position will arise.

Yugoslav Railway Extensions.

The importance to Yugoslavia of the development as quickly as possible of railway communications with the Adriatic needs no emphasis, and it is satisfactory to know that there is a prospect of the early carrying out of the scheme that has been drawn up to link up Belgrade with the Adriatic ports. The plan that has been drawn up is for a line from Belgrade to Sabatz, Bjelina, Zavidovitz, Sarajevo, Mostar, Metkovitch, and Split. It is further proposed to construct a line from Mladenovatz to Topola, Kragujevatz, Kraljeva, Rashka, and Mitrovitza. Difficulties in regard to the necessary financial arrangements have hitherto been the stumbling-block to the work, but for some time now the Yugoslav Government has been in negotiation with a leading British firm which may obtain a concession for the construction of one of the lines.

Persia and the Soviet.

A further interesting illustration of Soviet methods arises in regard to Persia, with which country the Soviet has just concluded a commercial treaty. Those who conduct treaties of any kind with the Soviet and expect to obtain adequate advantages under them, would do well to walk warily, and it would seem probable that Persia will have very good reason to rue the day she negotiated the treaty. It is stated that the treaty is in the most ambiguous terms, and its value to Persia would seem to be very dubious. It is true that Persia is accorded the right of transit across Soviet territory, but this right is circumscribed by many amazing restrictions, which go far towards annulling it altogether. Persia is not to be allowed, for instance, to export through Soviet territory goods which the Soviet itself can provide, while if the goods to be exported are needed by the Soviet, they are to have the right to purchase them. On the face of it, it seems a very one-sided arrangement, and one would imagine that one of the principal results of the treaty would be to make Persia begin to have doubts as to the good faith of her northern neighbour.

Motors in the Near and Middle East.

Mr. Goricar, who represents the Ford Motor Company in the Near and Middle East, recently arrived in Baghdad after an extensive tour in Turkey, and, it is understood, is going on to Persia and Afghanistan. He is hopeful as to the opening for motors in Turkey, and he believes that all the countries will become large markets for Ford cars. But if for Fords, why not for other makes? The answer depends entirely on the attitude of the British motor manufacturer to the great markets of the Near and Middle East. It is easily possible for them, by mass-production methods, to produce a car suitable for those countries and at a price at which it can compete with the foreign motors. If they are not prepared to do so at the present time, when trade is so difficult to obtain, it must simply be because they are unconvinced of the value of these markets. If that be so, the sooner they change their view the better, for these markets are great and growing, and will provide a means by which British traders can redress the adverse trade position resulting from the War. It was all very well in pre-War days to take a short-sighted view of the Near and Middle East; to do so to-day in the face of the obvious developments in the countries in that part of the world would be more than futile.

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FURTHER BULGARIAN INFLATION IMPROBABLE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sofia, August 5.

Rumours have been current recently that the Bulgarian Government intends to inflate its currency by another milliard levas. It is learnt, however, that the National Bank has declared itself opposed to this scheme, and that it is extremely unlikely that any inflation will take place. There is, however, a continued lack of money, and trade is very stagnant. This is partly due to the time of year, as August is always a dull month, owing to the greater part of the population being engaged in harvesting. With the coming of autumn, providing political stability is maintained, there should be a gradual improvement in trade and commerce.

TOBACCO MACHINERY IN USE IN GREECE.

The cutting of tobacco in Greece is done by hand-power machines for the most part, but they are gradually giving place to power cutters (says an American Consular report). To some extent, cigarettes are made by hand, but there is a gradual change in favour of mechanical equipment, and the greater part of the cigarette production is now machine-made.

There are about 340 tobacco manufacturers in Greece, using approximately 250 cutting machines, utilising nearly 1,000 horse-power. Factories turning out cigarettes number 167, and employ over 2,500 workers. Cutting machines in use are mostly of English manufacture, with capacities varying between 120 and 300 kilos a day.

A skilful workman can make 2,000 to 3,000 cigarettes a day, against a machine production of about 150,000 for the same length of time. The machines in use are run by electricity with small motors of from 2 to 3 horse-power. Where electricity is not available, power from internal-combustion engines is used, employing either kerosene or gasoline for fuel. Each machine employs a mechanic and two assistants, and, including packers and cutters, may require 20 employees to care for the output; half of the workers are usually women. Among the cigarette-making machines, German makes predominate at present, with a few American machines in use. Although British machinery is used principally for tobacco cutting, there are very few cigarette machines from England.

Indo Burma.—The production for June was 3,790 barrels, being 2,608.7 barrels from Yenanma Field and 1,181.3 barrels from Padaukpin Field.

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CONDITIONS IN THE TANGIER ZONE IN 1923.

The following extracts are taken from the report of H.M. Vice-Consul at Tangier, Lt.-Col. G. Mackereth, D.S.O., M.C., on the economic and financial conditions in the zone of Tangier last year:—

Tangier is primarily a centre of distribution, and, being as it is, an enclave in the Spanish zone, its prosperity depends, in no small measure, upon the power of purchase enjoyed by the natives of that zone. The prospect of the completion of the railway between Tangier and Fez (forecasted for 1925) is a source of encouragement to local merchants, who foresee thereby an enlarged radius of distribution.

Imports and Exports.

Cotton Goods.—A slight increase in the total is recorded; French and Italian imports have grown considerably; those from England and Spain have decreased. Piece goods from the Vosges have gained steadily; it has been stated by experts that, although the French goods are produced in a quality very similar to the British article, the finish is inferior.

Tea.—The direct import from Shanghai shows an increase, and Marseilles has captured more of the transhipment trade, to the detriment of London.

Soap (Common). — British participation has diminished, owing to the competition of France and Italy. The figures for the half-year ended June 30, 1923, are:—Great Britain, 18,276 kilos; France, 125,968 kilos; Italy, 40,408 kilos; total, all countries, 182,289 kilos.

Candles.—The imports appear to have increased abnormally. This is due to comparison with the low figures of 1921, but in that year a glut remained from the heavy purchases in 1920. The 1922 figures show a normal and minimum consumption. The advance of the Italian product is remarkable; in 1922, 160,391 kilos were imported, whereas in 1921 only 164 kilos came from Italy.

Motor-Cars.—The import of motor-cars is likely to increase as prosperity returns and roads are improved, but at present the business to be done is very small.

Building Materials.—A falling off in this class of imports is shown, yet when conditions are stabilised a considerable demand will arise.

Exports by sea are of no importance. The increased exports of live stock, hides, and skins is an indication of the return of business with the Anjara and the Gharb, where more peaceful conditions prevail. The fish exports fell in 1922, a result of the bad year experienced by the tunny fishers; happily, 1923 has provided an almost record catch, and fully compensated for the losses of the year previous. The Spanish Army absorbed most of the surplus corn, beans, and chickpeas.

Tangier has no important industries, and agriculture is sadly neglected. The uncertainty of tenure has always been a considerable handicap to successful farming; but, granted security in this direction, there seems little reason why, if modern methods were to be adopted, agriculture should not become a prosperous undertaking. No further developments can be reported under minerals and oil.

The promotion of a Czecho-Slovak bank in Paris has now taken concrete form, and it is announced that the bank will start operations on September 1 next. The capital is 10,000,000 francs, divided into shares of 250 francs each, but only 3,000,000 francs are being issued at the outset. The offices of the bank will be in the Rue Volney.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sharp Rise in Oilcakes.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

Coffee.—A steady tone has prevailed. Costa Rica is unchanged at 140s., East Indian is the same at 120s., while Santos is unaltered at 98s.

Maize.—The tendency has been for prices to rise during the week. La Plata has been done at 39s. per 480 lb. Roumanian has come to business at 9s. 6d. per cwt.

Oilcakes.—The market has been very firm, and prices have risen practically all along the line. Linseed cake has jumped to 290s., a rise of 45s.; coconut cake at 215s. is 20s up; while cottonseed cake at 170s. is 15s. up.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been steady, Indian being 22s. 3d., while La Plata has been done at 20s. 3d. Rapeseed has been quiet. Toria has come to business at 21s. 4½d., while real bold Ferozepore is 21s. 3d. Cottonseed has been in demand. Indian is 10s. 10½d., Egyptian black is 12s. 10½d., while Sakellarides is 11s. 7½d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed oil has been rather dull, closing at 41s. Rape oil has been steady, with crude at 49s. Cottonseed oil has been firm, with crude at 41s. and deodorised at 51s.

BULGARIAN IMPORT PROHIBITIONS WITHDRAWN.

A Decree published in the Bulgarian *Official Journal* announces the withdrawal of the prohibition of the importation into Bulgaria of the following goods as from August 11:—Silk bolting cloth; knobs of porcelain, for doors, windows, and stoves; flower seeds; photographic films; goggles for motorists; glaziers' diamonds; headkerchiefs of wool, with or without fringes, for women; spectacle frames and parts thereof, ornamental (*doublé*), also of celluloid; all kinds of penholders of ordinary materials; woollen cloth for brimless hats (*kalpak*); children's farinaceous foods of all kinds in small receptacles; celluloid toecaps for shoes; small celluloid lids; curtain rings of bone, wood, and celluloid; knitting needles and hooks of bone; umbrella handles of celluloid, bone, or horn; cocoa powder, without sugar, in small receptacles; edible cocoanut oil in small receptacles and packets for retail sale; celluloid frames and sheets for ladies' handbags; envelopes and letter paper, packed in small boxes, of usual materials, falling under Tariff No. 294 (1).

"A CENTURY OF SEA TRADING."

Mr. Cope Cornford has lately been engaged in writing the story of the development, during the past hundred years, of coastal shipping between London and other ports of Great Britain and between British and Northern Continental ports. In this work he has made wide and judicious use of the larger historical aspects of the subject. In the preface Lord Inchcape describes Mr. Cornford's book as an eloquent tribute to the genius of our people for sea affairs and as an important contribution to the efforts made during recent years to bring home to the inhabitants of this realm a sense of the vital part that British shipping and foreign trade have in the survival of every British citizen. The book will be published immediately by Messrs. A. & C. Black, Ltd., under the title of "A Century of Sea Trading."

CZECHO-SLOVAK MARKET CONDITIONS.

We have received from a correspondent the following review of conditions in Czecho-Slovakia in July:—

In the iron and steel trade the demand, both home and foreign, shows signs of falling off, and a period of stagnation is anticipated. The drop in prices abroad and the high cost of freight make it difficult to meet competition. The lace industry has made a considerable recovery, and good business is being done both at home and in the export trade. In particular, the cottage lace industry of North Bohemia is profiting largely from the great influx of visitors into the Czecho-Slovak watering places. In the toy trade, which has suffered from depression for the past two years, a welcome improvement is registered.

The musical instrument trade in North Bohemia, which, during the war, and subsequently up to the year 1920, had to pass through a very critical period, has now apparently completely recovered its former position, and numbers of makers are extending their operations. Kraslice, in the Rudohori (Ore Mountains), is the headquarters of the manufacture of wind instruments of both wood and metal, while at Shoenbach string instruments —violins, 'cellos, lutes, guitars, etc.—are turned out in large numbers.

In Slovakia there is a very brisk movement in the building trade, and bricks, cement, and all kinds of material are in good demand. The enamel works in Slovakia are also well employed, and a considerable export trade has developed to Turkey and Africa.

THE BAGHDAD MOTOR ROUTE.

The coming season will see various improvements introduced into the Desert Motor Service between Haifa, Damascus, and Baghdad. The present fleet of cars includes four Cadillacs and eight Buicks. By October two specially constructed Cadillacs, with a long chassis, will be added; they will carry eight passengers, and will provide additional leg room and more comfortable seating. Two baggage-cars will also be added to the service, equipped with water tanks and containers for the preservation of food.

Running in connection with the Nairn Transport Company's service to Baghdad, a weekly service is shortly to be provided between the latter town and Teheran by the Parsons Transport Company. According to the present programme, a start will be made from Baghdad by train at 9 p.m. on Sunday for Khanakin; the motor-car leaves Khanakin at 9 a.m. on Monday, arriving at 6 p.m. at Khermanshah, where the night is spent. Hamadan, the next stopping-place, is reached at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, and Teheran on Wednesday at 6 p.m. A ticket between Baghdad and Teheran costs £25, which includes railway fare and hotel accommodation at Khermanshah and Hamadan.

M. Victor Antonesco, Roumanian Minister to France, has resigned, and has left Paris for Bucharest.

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SUDAN GUM ARABIC.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Sudan gum has been given the designation of gum arabic as at the beginning of the Christian era it reached Europe through Arabian ports. Gum arabic was in the Middle Ages termed "Turkey sorts," Turkey then being the supreme ruling power in the eastern Mediterranean.

The best quality of gum arabic is obtained from the acacia verek, known in the Sudan as the "hashab" tree, which mostly grows in the province of Kordofan, and the gum collected therefrom is termed "Kordofan Hashab Gum." Small quantities of hashab trees closely resembling the Kordofan hashab are found in the Gezireh and Gedaref districts, the gum therefrom being termed "Gezireh" and "Gedaref" hashab respectively. Another species of tree, called the acacia seyal, which grows in Sennar district, yields an inferior variety of gum called "Talha," or "Talh."

Grades of Gum Arabic.

(1) Natural gum, when the gum is shipped just as it is brought into the market by the camels, having bits of bark adhering to the lumps.

(2) Cleaned gum, when the gum is supplied after being picked over and bark and straw removed.

(3) Cleaned and sifted, when the gum is both cleaned and passed through sieves so as to remove all the gum dust and any sand that may have found its way among the gum.

(4) Bleached gum, being obtained by exposing the gum for some months to the baking rays of the Sudan sun, when it turns from an amber yellow to a more or less pure white.

(5) Talha is always supplied cleaned, and in some cases cleaned and sifted.

Good quality gum can only be obtained by tapping the trees, viz., separating a small piece of the bark with an axe and then tearing the bark upwards. As a general rule, the trees are tapped three times a year. The first tapping is done towards October. About fifteen days after the first tapping gum begins to exude in a thick, viscous form, which rapidly hardens in the sun, and the native collects the hardened pieces, putting them into his skin-bag or "gurab," as they are locally called. Collection, therefore, of the first tapping is effected within November-December. The second tapping is done towards January on the opposite side of the tree, and collection is effected in January-February. The third tapping is done in March on the side untapped during previous tappings, and it is believed that this third tapping yields the biggest quantity of gum, and collection continues right through to the end of the season.

During the time of high prices many trees are ruined by excessive tapping, and in consequence the gum crop is likely to diminish unless new areas become accessible. Some think that in consequence of native short-sightedness in not trying to conserve the trees the yield of given areas will progressively diminish. The Government are much interested in this question, as the revenue of the country partly depends upon the size of the gum crop, and have laid down regulations with a view to prevent the careless destruction of the gum trees.

Water-Melons and the Gum Crop.

In desert regions like that of Kordofan and Darfur, where no water is to be found for hundreds of miles, the natives depend upon the melons as a substitute for water. When the melon crop is plentiful the natives collect them and keep them in big piles, to be used both as food and water for themselves and their animals. To tap the trees in Northern Darfur the natives must first see that the melons are plentiful. In case of an unsuccessful melon crop the natives of that district move to places where there are wells, and the trees remain untapped and the gum is consequently lost, whilst if the melon crop is good the natives remain and the gum is collected. It is noteworthy that when the trees remain untapped for one year they yield more gum during the coming season, and when a melon crop follows one or two bad crops it is certain that the gum crop is plentiful. The melon crop does not depend upon abundant but regular rains. When there are no rains or when there is too much rain, the melons are destroyed.

The exports of gum arabic from the Sudan during the last twelve years have been as follows (in tons):—1912, 18,300; 1913, 15,050; 1914, 12,335; 1915, 11,300; 1916, 13,025; 1917, 15,735; 1918, 13,690; 1919, 16,490; 1920, 12,250; 1921, 12,215; 1922, 14,569; 1923, 23,000.

A Reuter message from Constantinople states that it is announced that the Government has decided to take over the tobacco monopoly hitherto held by a French concern. The latter will, it is stated, be paid a sum of £T4,000,000, its factories falling to the Government.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotation.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-97 $\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	254-257
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	362-363
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	24.14-24.16
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 $\frac{31}{32}$-1.5
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	88
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	995
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	330-360,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 $\frac{31}{32}$-1.5
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	835-850
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.55¼
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	80.55
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	154
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	100⅝-100¾
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	615
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	320-325,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	—	23.75-23.95

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Shipping Intelligence.

THE YUGOSLAV ZONE AT SALONIKA.

In an interesting article in the *Economic and Financial Review* of Belgrade M. Milivoj Pilja, of the Ministry of Commerce of Yugoslavia, discusses the importance of Salonika in the commercial life of pre-war Serbia, and points out that owing to the customs war between Serbia and Austria-Hungary, the greater part of Serbia's exports passed through this port from 1906 onwards. The writer continues :—

In order to give some idea of the importance of the Serbian trade through Salonika before the war we give below the figures for the year 1910, the last year of normal trade in the Serbian Kingdom. Serbian exports through Salonika in 1910 amounted to 8,179 truckloads of goods, 50,712 head of cattle, 223 crates of poultry. That is a total of about 11,000 trucks. It should be observed that we are dealing here with the figures for goods coming from the old Serbian Kingdom only, then without Macedonia, while to-day the products of the Vojvodina and of Bosnia must be added to this list. Serbian exports by way of Salonika during this same period were only one-tenth of the exports.

Exports have been relatively weak during the last five years, by reason of the exhausted state in which the country has been left by continuous wars and of the accumulated needs which resulted from these. On the other hand, imports have increased. A certain number of goods imported during this period will not be imported in the future or will be imported only in much smaller amounts (drapery, millinery, salt, sugar, etc.), while it is to be expected that the imports of certain materials and partly manufactured goods will be increased. A decrease is to be observed in the exports of cereals and of pigs, while those of cattle, beans, wood, etc., are on the increase. However, the statistics of our trade through Salonika since the War cannot be taken as the basis for an estimate of the future of that trade since this period was far from normal.

According to information given by the Chamber of Commerce of the S.H.S. Kingdom in Salonika, despite difficulties put in its way, our export trade through Salonika shows a remarkable progress. Thus in 1921, 3,050 truckloads arrived in Salonika from the S.H.S. Kingdom; in 1922, 4,400 trucks; in 1923, 5,300 trucks.

The exports have therefore considerably diminished; compared with the 11,000 trucks exported by the Serbian Kingdom before the War, we have now 4,000 for the whole of the S.H.S. Kingdom. It is, however, clear that the cause of this decrease lies in the abnormal circumstances which have followed the war, and it is certain that our exports will increase. If we examine now the imports before the War, we can say that they reached the figure of, on the average, 3,000 trucks per annum. For 1921 the figures reached were (in million dinars): Cotton and cotton cloths, 97; wool, 7; ironmongery, 10; glassware, 1; sugar, 22; rice, 5: coffee, 5; petrol, 3. Imports have therefore considerably increased when compared with exports.

PROJECTED IMPROVEMENT OF PIRÆUS.

The Public Council of Piræus has approved plans for various civic improvements, and negotiations have been opened up to float foreign loans which will finance the project (says an American Consular report). Among the amounts voted are 16,000,000 drachmæ for waterworks, especially for artesian well machinery and pumps; 16,000,000 drachmæ for road work; and 5,000,000 drachmæ for sprinkling machines, garbage burners, etc. Other schemes being considered are 800,000 drachmæ for a sanitary project, 500,000 drachmæ for enlarging the city hall, a 12,000,000-drachmæ sewerage project, and a 16,000,000-drachmæ project for a building to house all municipal offices.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 23).

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, August 25).

British India Line.—S.s. Mulbera for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 8); s.s. Takliwa for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 16).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Murdock for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, August 15).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Eastbourne for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 4).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Algerian for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, August 16).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Wigmore for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, August 20); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Syra, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 6); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas, Sulina, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 20).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Delta for Bombay (London, August 22); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 6).

The Czecho-Slovak Government has agreed in principle to make certain Customs reductions on imported machinery such as is not manufactured in Czecho-Slovakia. The matter will come before the Cabinet in connection with the fixing of a general Customs tariff. About 1,100 types of machines will be affected by the proposed alterations.

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Stock and Share Markets.

Generally Cheerful Tone.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

For some months the markets have given little occasion for attention. With the exception of a few groups they have been, like the general trade position, stagnant, though also with very evident signs of coming developments as soon as conditions afford the chance. In the past week or so they have become much more interesting as a result of the favourable view taken of the London Conference and the improving position generally, which finds a reflection in a recovery in the leading exchanges. There is as yet no cause for undue optimism, but shareholders have had a very good indication of the probable trend of the markets once there is a real settlement that will permit the wheels of world trade to revolve smoothly once more.

Trade and the Markets.

No one, of course, expects miracles from a settlement now, though the recovery of Europe may be more rapid than some think; but there can be no real advance, no solid hope for trade development until the Allies have come to a definite understanding with Germany. Of course, for Great Britain a settlement means other things besides the certainty of the gradual development of world purchasing power. It will entail a renewal of German competition under conditions which will render it particularly deadly. It is true that British and German commerce in pre-war days covered to some extent different spheres, but fields of action coincided in many cases, and those who think we shall be adversely affected, at any rate at first, would seem to have solid grounds for their view. What will happen will depend largely on the enterprise which our traders and manufacturers show in meeting a new situation.

The Outlook.

These are a few of the factors which must be taken into consideration in weighing the future course of the markets, and, as will be gathered, the outlook must be somewhat uncertain. A settlement which will mean a further improvement in the exchanges will admittedly be followed by an all-round advance in prices, but ensuing trade competition with results to our detriment will obviously mean a decline in certain markets until matters have readjusted themselves. For certain markets, however, such as Rubber, a settlement can only bring hope. Rubber has been affected by the lack of demand which is reflected to-day in the price of about 1s. per lb., despite a restricted output. Once the world is again in a position to satisfy its demand for this commodity shareholders will be able to regard themselves as fortunate, and it would not be surprising if in a few years' time rubber was one of the brightest features of the markets.

Gilt-Edged Strong.

The gilt-edged group has been favourably affected by the prevailing conditions. Business has been on a fair scale, and prices have advanced practically all along the line. Consols were done up to 57⅛; the Conversion Loan, which has been specially strong, is 77¾; War Loan Fives are 101¼; while Fundings, which have also been notably strong, are 88⅞. Indian stocks have strengthened in sympathy, the Three per Cents. being 56½, the Three and a-Half per Cents. 66⅜, the Four and a-Half per Cents. 86½, the Five and a-Half per Cents. 100⅞, and the Seven per Cents. 113½.

Good Tone in Foreign Market.

The Foreign group has generally made a good showing, with French loans specially strong, the Five per Cents. rising to 25½, while the Four per Cents. improved to 20. German stocks were again a feature, and were the medium of a fair amount of business. The Three per Cents. are now 33s., the Three and a-Half per Cents. are 23s., while the Four per Cents. are 23s. 6d The future of these stocks must remain a little obscure, and it would not be surprising if they reacted for a time to a lower level, though they may, and probably will, go higher first. Belgian Three per Cents. were better at 70, while Italian Rentes are 20½. Russian bonds have generally been weak. Greek loans are about the same, with Monopolies at 43½.

Industrials Firm.

The generally improving outlook has resulted in the development of quite a firm tone in the Industrial group, though business is still on a very moderate scale, with a few lines showing special activity.

Textiles have been a good spot, with Coats at 61s. 9d. and Courtaulds at 53s. Tobaccos were rather dull, Bats being 108s. 9d., while Imperial Tobaccos are 78s. 6d. Iron and Steel descriptions have shown a rather variable tendency. Armstrongs are 14s. 6d., Guest Keens are 36s. 6d., while Vickers are 9s. 6d.

Shipping securities have generally made a better showing. P. & O. Deferred are 287½, Cunards are 17s. 9d., Furness Withys are 32s. 6d., while Khedivial Mails are 1¾.

Banks Steady.

A steady tone has ruled in Banking descriptions. Westminsters are 17 7-16, Lloyds are 59s. 3d., Bank of British West Africas are 3¾ xd, P. & O. Banks are 11, while Imperial of Persia are 7¾.

Egyptian securities have been variable. Aboukirs are 18s. 3d., Beheras are 11¼, Egyptian Markets are 24s. 9d., Gharbieh Lands are 1¾, New Egyptians are 27s., and Union Foncieres are 2 11-16.

Oils Quiet.

A rather quiet tone has ruled in the Oil group, and, generally speaking, business has been on a rather small scale. Anglo-Persian are 2 31-32, while Burmah are 5 1-16. In the Roumanian group Phœnix have been a feature, and are 21s. 6d. Among Egyptians, Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields are 1 1-16.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Irregular.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended July 31, state :—

The market since our last report has been somewhat irregular, and fluctuations have been rather large. The net changes on the week are the following :—Sakellaridis, $1.22 up for November, $1.26 up for January; Ashmouni, $0.50 up for August, $1.47 up for October, $1.40 up for December, $1.47 up for February. In spite of a decline on the week in New York, prices here are up about 150 points; our market has shown considerable strength, quite unaided by outside influences. There is no particular reason to which this strength can be attributed; there has been no substantial improvement in the trade demand, and the purchases which have pushed prices up have been mainly speculative, based on the opinion that prices of Egyptian are cheap as compared to American. The volume of business has been larger than last week, and has been spread over both the Sakel and Ashmouni contracts; the straddle between October Ashmouni and November Sakel is maintained steady at about $8½. The week's receipts amount to Crs. 1,180 against exports Crs. 34,330; the stock stands at Crs. 384,092. Spot : Total sales during the week amount to about 4,700 bales, of which we estimate 3,500 bales Sakellaridis, 1,100 bales Uppers, and 100 bales Pilion. The market has shown rather more activity owing to an increased demand from both England and the Continent.

Sakellaridis : The demand has been confined almost entirely to the low and medium grades. Cotton below fair can be picked up fairly cheaply, holders being anxious to liquidate their stocks. Although there still remains on the market a certain amount of cotton round fully fair and good fair, it is becoming daily more difficult to find good style lots in these grades. The price of spot as compared with contracts remains more or less unchanged.

Uppers : The bulk of the business this week has been in the grades fair to fully good fair; prices as compared to contracts are about unchanged from last week, but are very firm. There has been a small inquiry for the high grades, but the stock is very small and firmly held for fancy prices.

Pilion : A small business has been done in fully good fair. The prices for this variety are about equivalent to those of similar grades of Uppers.

Crop 1924 : Crop reports continue to be quite good, and there is nothing calling for special comment. Reports from certain Behera districts indicate that leaf worm damage was rather heavier than normal; this is, however, not general, and will not, we think, have any appreciable effect on the yield. Pink boll worm attack is reported in the Sakellaridis fields of the south and central districts, but the proportion of attacked bolls, so far, is small. Zagora fields, by reason of their more advanced condition, seem to be escaping worm attack. Temperature is slightly higher than normal.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Increasing Demand for Sudan.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 6 :—

Egyptian Spot.—Although the inquiry for Egyptians has been well maintained, actual business has been somewhat quieter, a state of things to which, no doubt, the August holiday has contributed. There is little change in the general situation, and spot purchases continue to be of only a retail character. Good to fine Sakel has been in fair request at prices ranging from 400 to 600 on August. Good fair Sakel at about 100 on August has found support, and there has been an improved business done in the inferior qualities this week at from 20.00d. to 22.00d. The Upper market continues very erratic, and holders of the small stocks still available are showing a disposition to close out when tested. This attitude is suiting very well a number of spinners who are short of cotton. No best uppers are available, and the result of an inquiry for good to fine Sakel produced a most meagre selection. A small intermittent inquiry still continues for brown cotton, and a little business occasionally trickles through at fairly good prices.

The inquiry for Sudan Sakellaridis continues to grow in extent, and it is surprising that more actual business has not developed from it during the past week. Indications point to a large business being done in this cotton before the end of the season, provided that no untoward event occurs in the meanwhile. The basis for this cotton has become somewhat easier this week. Tokar Sakel at a price (the last sale we have heard of took place at under 26.00d.) continues to find favour, and there is no doubt that at this price the cotton is attractive, compared with what is offering in the ordinary Sakel variety. C.i.f. business is reported officially as being "quiet," but there has been a good undercurrent of inquiry about, and considerable anxiety has been shown by a number of spinners to obtain cotton for delivery here before October. Forwardings for the week ending the 1st inst. were re-

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turned as 9,329 bales. Estimated sales, 1,100 bales Egyptian, and about 200 bales Sudan. Quotations of brown and upper show a decline of 65 points on the week; those of Sakel are 40 points lower. Fully good fair Sakellaridis to-day, 25.75d.

Egyptian Futures.—With the exit of the July position the market steadied somewhat. The effect of the heavy last-day tender of 54,700 bales American cotton and 1,850 bales Egyptian had been largely discounted in advance, and the cotton was readily taken up.

No feature of special importance has appeared since last we wrote. United States weather reports continue to sway both markets here, and a seasonal stream of crop estimates from the same source has also exercised its varying effect in a lesser degree.

Roughly speaking, the market opened the week with rather a poor tone, and although a decline of some 25 points induced a certain amount of trade "calling," the offtake was insufficient to maintain prices for any length of time, with the result that in face of a poor New York market, and some scattered selling which resulted therefrom, prices further fell away until a decline of 40 to 45 points had been registered.

Considerable fluctuations have since occurred in sympathy with the American market, the only really noticeable feature being the trade "calling" which came in on every decline.

The market closes this evening 5 points higher on the week for the near months, and unchanged for distant, with a better tone prevailing. We cannot, at the moment, see any marked weakening in the near positions, owing to the small local stock, which now stands at 54,000 bales (including Sudan), and a large proportion of which is probably untenderable.

Crop reports from Egypt continue to be very favourable on the whole, and an early picking is expected.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Unsettled Conditions.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended August 9 states:—

General.—The position of this market during the past week has been a difficult one. A further report from the American Agricultural Bureau on the condition of the crop as at August 1 was to be published last evening, and with buyers abroad and merchants here holding expectations of a substantial crop and lower prices, the tendency has been, naturally, to await developments.

The report proved, from one aspect, to be better than the last. It gave the condition of the crop as 67.4 per cent. only, as compared with 68.5 per cent. on July 15, and 71.2 per cent. on June 25; but, on the other hand, there was an estimated increase of 5 lb. in the yield per acre, as compared with the last report, so that the total crop is now given as 12,351,000 bales, as compared with 11,934,000 in the middle of June, and 12,144,000 at June 25. Following the receipt of this news late yesterday afternoon, prices in Liverpool did not move much, but there was a subsequent fall of 80 points in New York.

Yarn.—Conditions in this section have been unsettled, and in the coarser counts in particular the demand has been very poor. There has been a moderate inquiry for medium and fine counts, and Egyptian spinnings are fairly well taken at steady prices. The Federation of Master Cotton Spinners yesterday decided that the limitation of the working week to 26½ hours in the American using section should be continued until the end of the year.

Cloth.—As so often recently, there has been a good inquiry, though at prices which are too low. Naturally, a certain amount of hesitation has been shown about increasing limits owing to the erratic movements in raw cotton rates, and also in anticipation of the publication of the Bureau report already referred to. Nevertheless, it is felt that the inquiry shows the possibility of considerable business being done if prices could be stabilised at a little below present levels. An encouraging feature of the week has been the improved trade with Egypt.

Raw Cotton.—Little need be added to what has already been said in this connection. The tendency during the week has been towards lower values, following fairly satisfactory weather reports from the United States. Closing prices yesterday were as follows:—American middling, 17.38; Egyptian fully good fair, 25.80.

PAINT PRODUCTION IN GREECE.

There were 17 factories, employing 296 men, listed as manufacturers of paint in Greece, according to the Greek Industrial Census for 1920. These factories import dry paint and prepare it for use locally by mixing with oil or water. The industry is an outgrowth of the present Greek tariff, which makes the importation of ready-mixed paints prohibitive (says an American Consular report).

It is estimated that about 800 tons of dry paints are imported each year for local mixing. Red lead is received from France, and the present quotation is reported as about £32 per ton c.i.f. Piræus. White lead is quoted at about £36. Linseed oil comes principally from England, but is also manufactured in Greece.

The quality of paints mixed and sold locally is poor. Prepared marine paints for the hulls of Greek merchant ships and for the Greek Navy are usually imported from abroad and, inasmuch as these are admitted free of duty, their cost is not excessive. One local foreign concern imports its own paint to keep its works in proper painting repair. Walls in houses are usually calcimined. Local paint is used for ordinary construction work; for painting houses, tanks, and floors; and by coastwise shipping concerns. The most popular colours are grey, black, white, and blue.

Inasmuch as the industry is dependent on the present tariff—and continuous protection is uncertain—it is not believed that it will advance conspicuously in the immediate future. Manufacturers seem content at present to import dry paint and mix it locally, and there is no indication that the industry will be able to manufacture the dry paint itself.

The production of the Steaua Romana Company for July was 24,920 tons, as compared with 22,000 tons for the previous month.

The exhibits at the Liberec (Reichenberg) Fair, which was opened on August 9, are arranged in ten different buildings, four of which are devoted to the textile industry alone. The fair represents perhaps the largest textile market on the Continent.

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DEATH OF MAHARAJA OF TRAVANCORE.

We regret to announce the death, which occurred on August 7, of H.H. Sir Rama Varma, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., Maharaja of Travancore, at the age of 66. His Highness succeeded in 1885, and during his long rule distinguished himself by the way in which he devoted himself to the development of the State. As a result of his efforts, Travancore now stands first among the Indian States as regards literacy, over two-thirds of the population being literate. His reign has seen the establishment of a Legislative Council and of a Popular Assembly, the construction of important railways, and the development of agriculture. The advance that has been made by the State in the economic sphere can be gauged from the admirable display at Wembley (which, it may be pointed out, was the subject of a lengthy review in THE NEAR EAST of July 31). The Maharaja was a devoted ally of Great Britain, and during the Great War offered the resources of his State.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Iron Bars.—The Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of iron bars, different dimensions, for the workshops and trade schools of the Ministry during the school-year 1924-1925. August 30.

Copper Plates.—Tenders are invited for the supply of 11,500 kgs. of red copper plates of varying dimensions. September 1. (D.O.T.)

Oils.—The general manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of mineral lubricating oils. September 25.

Construction of a Metallic Bridge over the Mahmoudieh Canal at Karmous.—The Municipality of Alexandria invites tenders for the construction of a metallic bridge over the Mahmoudieh Canal at Karmous. September 23. (D.O.T.)

Leather.—The British Commercial Secretary at Cairo reports that a local merchant desires to be placed in touch with United Kingdom manufacturers of leather. He is especially interested in box-calf, kid and patent leathers. (D.O.T.).

Turkey

Bell Tents.—A department of the Turkish Government proposes to purchase 1,000 bell tents. (D.O.T.)

Greece.

Construction of Works at Kavalla Harbour.—Tenders are invited by the Kavalla Harbour Committee for the construction of works at Kavalla Harbour according to the specifications drawn up by the engineer, Mr. A. Ghinis. These works are estimated to cost drs. 76,000,000. The adjudication will take place on December 1, 1924, and tenders must be submitted by that date. A guarantee deposit of drs. 600,000 must be made in the Public Treasury, and this deposit will be returned to unsuccessful competitors within three days after the date of adjudication. In the event of two or more competitors tendering at the same price, lots will be drawn. (D.O.T.)

India.

Wagons.—The South Indian Railway Co. invite tenders for the supply of 109 wagons. October 10.

Dredgers.—The India Store Department invite tenders for the supply of two self-propelling suction dredgers, with radial heads and pumps having 20 in. suction and delivery, also floating discharge pipes, terminal pontoons, anchor lifting pontoons, and floating high-pressure hydraulic pumping plants.

BASRAH DATE CROP PROSPECTS.

The following extracts are taken from a report received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank from Basrah, dated July 12:—

The market is still very dull. The reports as to the date crop still continue favourable up to the present. The hot spell referred to last week has given way to more normal conditions. Unless unfavourable conditions set in it is anticipated that the crop of Hallawees will be three times as large as that of last season. On the other hand Khadrawi and Sayers are 50 per cent. under last year's crop. Further purchases of grain are reported, but no shipments have taken place.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Vienna Autumn Fair will be held from September 7 to 14.

The production of the Dacia Romano Company for July was 660 tons.

The Greek Moratorium Law has been further extended to August 31.

Representatives of European Chambers of Commerce are to visit Hull on August 25 and 26.

The establishment of a Ford factory in Egypt is understood to be contemplated.

It is reported that the output of Baku oil for the month ended July 1 amounted to 21,656 poods.

Strumnitza, Southern Yugoslavia, has been largely destroyed by fire, says a Reuter message.

An Italian commercial fair is planned to be held at Alexandria from April 15 to June 15, 1925.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended August 2 amounted to £5,096, making the aggregate £24,879.

It is reported that the Bulgarian National Bank is to place an order abroad for the printing of new bank notes in denominations of 500, 1,000 and 5,000 levas.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from July 26 to August 1 amounted to 2,840,000 francs, as against 3,150,000 francs for the corresponding period of last year.

The application of the Suez Canal Company to subdivide each share of 500 francs into two shares of 250 francs each has been granted by the Egyptian Government.

The directors of the African and Eastern Trade Corporation recommend a final dividend of 4 per cent., making 8 per cent., less tax. The meeting will be held on August 29.

The progress reports of Phœnix Oil and Transport Co. and allied companies for July show that the total crude oil production for the month was 19,700 tons and the throughput of the refineries 18,700 tons.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields output.—Gemsah, production for week ended August 1, 19 tons (last week 15 tons); Hurghada, production for week ended August 1, 3,354 tons (last week 3,181 tons).

Mr. J. C. Drake, a Deputy Secretary of the Industries Department of the Government of India, has been appointed Secretary to the Indian High Commissioner in London in place of Mr. Cook, who has resigned.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended July 20 amounted to £E6,189, making the total from April £E76,808. The corresponding figures for the previous year were £E6,912 and £E70,971.

Statement showing the form in which the balance of the Indian Gold Standard Reserve was held on July 31: In India, nil; in England, cash at the Bank of England, £2,628; British Government securities (value as on March 31, 1924), £16,479,501; British Government securities since purchased (cost price), £23,683,322; total, £40,165,451.

According to information issued by the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, the area under sugar beet this season has increased in Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, and Czecho-Slovakia, the aggregate increase in these six countries being about 20 per cent. compared with last year. There has been an extension of the area under sugar beet in Russia of about 40 per cent.

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The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

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Managing Governors in India:—
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N. M. MURRAY, Esq., Offg.

London Manager:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.

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Subscribed Capital	£4,000,000	Reserve Fund	£2,750,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £340,000

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*MOOLTAN	21,000	Aug. 2	Sept. 5	Colombo & Australia
CHINA	8,000	Sept 5	Sept 12	Bombay & Karachi
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¶†MORVADA	8,193	Aug. 23	Sept. 12	Bombay & Karachi
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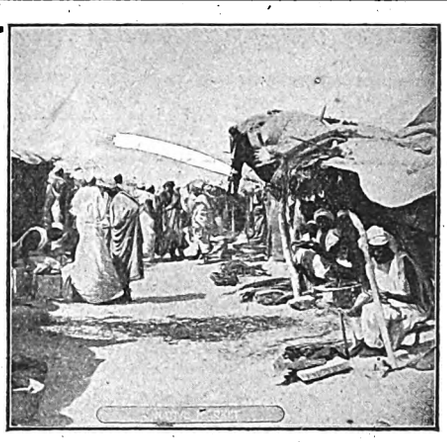

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No. 693—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Sudan Riots.

The rioting that has taken place at Atbara and Port Sudan, and the demonstrations in Khartoum and Omdurman are not in themselves very serious affairs. In so far as they constitute breaches of military discipline they are serious offences for the perpetrators, but in their political bearing they reveal nothing beyond what was already known. An outbreak on the part of Egyptian soldiers does not appear to be of much use as a political argument in a discussion on the future status of the Sudan. On the other hand, the fact that the punishment inflicted on the rioters at Atbara was meted out to them by a Sudanese mounted corps, acting apparently without orders, goes a long way towards shattering part of the Egyptian claim to the Sudan. At Port Sudan a conflict was avoided by detaining against their will the Sudanese police within barracks; the rioters, finding that their scheme had miscarried, dispersed of their own accord. A considerable amount of damage was done to the railway workshops at Atbara junction by men of the Egyptian Railway Battalion, and order was not restored before a number of them had been killed and many more wounded. A military court has been appointed to inquire into the circumstances attending the shooting, and another court, presided over by an Egyptian officer, will investigate the causes of the outbreak. The demonstration at Khartoum was made by cadets of the Military School, and in common with the other incidents was evidently intended to be part of a prearranged movement designed to further Egyptian propaganda in connection with pending negotiations regarding the Sudan.

The Egyptian Government's Attitude.

Although the rioting in itself may have been unimportant, it may well have far-reaching consequences. Great Britain and Egypt have, nominally, been hitherto jointly responsible for the good government of the Sudan. If it can be proved that deliberate incitement to disorder has emanated from Egypt, the condominium becomes a farce: for to tamper with the loyalty and discipline of armed forces responsible for the preservation of order is the negation of good government. On receipt of the first news of the disturbances it was naturally supposed in Great Britain that Egyptian responsibility, if any existed, would be confined to agents hostile to Zaghloul Pasha's Ministry, who aimed at prejudicing or preventing negotiations between Great Britain and Egypt. A very sinister complexion, however, has been put upon the whole subject by a *communiqué* issued by the Egyptian Government. In view of the fact that the condominium is still in force, it would have been expected that the Egyptian Government would at once have indentified itself with the British authorities in discountenancing disorder, while possibly, in furtherance of its claims to the Sudan, showing an excess of zeal in the cause of law and firm government. The determining factor in Egypt's case for independence is her claim that she can govern herself; on the same analogy her case for the annexation of the Sudan has all the ground cut away from under it if it is shown that she cannot apply to the Sudan the rudimentary principles of government. Confronted with the incidents at Atbara, Port Sudan, and Khartoum, the Egyptian Government has issued a *communiqué*, which can be described only as a direct encouragement to the forces of disorder in the Sudan. For the demonstration of the cadets of the Khartoum Military School something in the nature of an apology is offered—they paraded in good order; resistance ceased, and they laid down their arms; "the demonstration is said to be a protest against the system of granting brevets to Sudanese cadets." The reference to the outbreaks at Atbara and Port Sudan suppresses the information that the Railway Battalion concerned is Egyptian, and that the soldiers who fired on them were Sudanese Arabs, and makes "British troops" responsible for quelling the disorders with bloodshed. The official statement then proceeds to enumerate the steps taken by the Egyptian Government, which include the transmission to the British Government of "a protest against the proceedings in Sudan," and concludes with the announcement that the Egyptian Government entirely shares the nation's sentiments, and is closely watching over the situation, in order to preserve the country's dignity and safeguard its rights.

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A Lost Opportunity.

Unless the Egyptian *communiqué* is repudiated by the Prime Minister, Saad Pasha Zaghloul, who is absent from the country, the British Government will be compelled to infer that it can look for no support from the Egyptian Government in dealing with the new developments in the Sudan. Before Cairo had made any move, military courts had been appointed to inquire into the disturbances, and one of these is to be presided over by an Egyptian officer. If, however, the Egyptian Government is so lacking in moral courage and so subservient to popular clamour that it dare not state in its *communiqué* that the Atbara rioters were an Egyptian battalion, there would seem to be little chance that a single Egyptian officer will take upon himself the responsibility of disclosing the facts of the case. If he does, it will be a tribute to the Army's sense of honour, and will throw into yet stronger relief the cowardice or lack of honesty of a body of men responsible in Zaghloul Pasha's absence for the administration of the country. A military outbreak calls for the immediate restoration of military discipline, and thereafter it is incumbent upon a Government to inquire into the causes of the outbreak. It would have been a simple thing for the Egyptian Ministry to do, and at the same time its obvious course, to denounce in unequivocal terms the concerted disorders in the Sudan, and then to call upon the British Government to hold a joint inquiry into the outbreaks. By seeking almost to excuse the riots, and to identify them, as it were, with Egypt's case for the Sudan, the Cairo Ministry will have irretrievably damaged itself in the eyes of the civilised world. Outside Egypt it would cause no surprise if Great Britain were to decide that any friendly settlement with Egypt over the Sudan is now out of the question. The British Government could not be blamed if it resolved that, in view of the Egyptian attitude, it must now assume sole responsibility for the Sudan, and must call for the withdrawal of the Egyptian troops from the Army in the Sudan and the resignation of Egyptians from the Sudan service. A first step has been taken in the decision to send back to Egypt the mutinous Railway Battalion. The British wish has been all along that there should be no open rupture, that the *status quo* should be maintained with such technical modifications as the new order in Egypt might necessitate, and that the relations between the three countries should be of the friendliest. Egyptian opinion, unfortunately, has resolutely opposed this solution, and in the face of the grave lack of personal courage in all Egyptian politicians, it is now seen to be quite hopeless to expect that any one will agree to come to terms on the Sudan question.

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Bringing Matters to a Head.

In all the circumstances of the case, therefore, Great Britain may have to decide that on the subject of the Sudan a swift and complete breach with Egypt is the kindest course in the long run. Intrigue and possibly outbreaks might follow, but the first signs of these would necessitate a more effective closing of the frontier between the two countries. Although actual hostilities would not have to be feared, the position of British residents in Egypt might be uncomfortable, and even exposed to danger. The more elaborate the precautions taken in regard to this possibility the quicker the return to normal conditions. At the same time, the fullest satisfaction would have to be given to all Egypt's financial claims in regard to the Sudan, so that any possibility of a legitimate grievance in this respect should be eliminated. It is to be expected that Egypt would at once bring to bear upon the Sudan all the economic pressure of which she is capable. This would certainly embarrass the Khartoum Government, and the results would have to be faced by Great Britain. There is no reason to suppose, however, that the Sudan could not quite well shoulder its own financial burdens after a few years, and the British taxpayer would be called upon merely to allow the country to pay off its debt in its own time, unhampered by an impossible responsibility in the years when it was engaged in making good. Before very long, we believe, a new spirit would arise in Egypt; with it would come the re-establishment of friendly relations and economic co-operation.

Croat and Serb.

M. Raditch has returned to Zagreb without carrying out his alleged intention of taking a rest-cure on the way from Moscow. There would seem to be nothing in the speech attributed to him shortly after his arrival to which serious exception can be taken. He sought to represent British "diplomatists" as taking an active part in Yugoslavia's domestic politics; but on this point his countrymen will probably reflect that the Croatian leader is apt to give his narratives the colour that happens to suit him at the moment. The most important part in the speech, as reported, was the passage in which he promised, with every appearance of sincerity, his support to M. Davidovitch. He does not expect the Prime Minister to endorse the Croat Peasant Party's programme; but he holds that Croatia can become a republic and yet remain an integral part of a Yugoslav monarchy. In view of the present position in Yugoslavia, he is reported to have said, a revolution is not necessary. King Alexander has been very wise in trusting the formation of a Government to the Davidovitch majority. "We remain republican," adds M. Raditch, "but for the moment accept the monarchy." Here, at least, there is ground for friendly discussion between the Croats and the Serbs, and those who have not lost faith in Yugoslavia's star will renew their hope that the country will yet be able to find the path to domestic peace and unity. As the tenour of this speech is so completely at variance with the subsequent report that M. Raditch has refused to support the Davidovitch Ministry, we must wait to see which policy will ultimately be adopted by the Croat leader.

Fighting in Transjordan.

As far as is known at present, no importance need be attached to the Wahabi raid into Transjordan. Sultan Ibn Saoud experiences considerable difficulty in keeping effective control over all the tribes that owe him allegiance, and every now and then one or other of those more remote from the capital goes out on the warpath. His, how-

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ever, is the responsibility for maintaining order in his dominions, and he should be called upon to deal with the offending tribe. Fortunately, the best deterrent against the too-frequent repetition of these raids has been supplied in this instance by the victims, the Beni Sakhr tribe in Transjordan, who, with the help of the Royal Air Force, rallied after the first attack and pursued the raiders with such good effect that these are supposed to have lost a third of their fighting strength. It is well that the Royal Air Force should have come to the immediate support of the tribe attacked; Transjordan is included in the Palestine Mandate, and Ibn Saoud's tribesmen ought to know better by now than to invade that territory, even if their raiding propensities still have to be indulged in occasionally. To check this tendency is believed to be one of Ibn Saoud's chief preoccupations. He is understood to be anxious to keep the peace with his neighbours in Iraq and Amman, and can sometimes be brought to acknowledge the advantage of maintaining correct relations with his old enemy, the King of the Hejaz. His peaceful inclinations need to be encouraged and reinforced in every possible way, if only because this part of the world is now becoming an important link in the chain of British communications. At present the mail and passenger motor service between Palestine and Iraq follows the northern route from Damascus to Rutba Wells, the half-way stage in the desert between the two countries; but it is conceivable that circumstances might cause preference to be given to the more southerly route from Amman along the track followed by the Air Mail. The success and safety of the service presuppose the good behaviour of the tribes, who have hitherto shown scrupulous friendliness to the British flag. If they call down upon themselves chastisement for attacking Britain's protégés, they may forget that there is no quarrel between themselves and the British.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The London Conference.

The London Conference is now over, the various delegates are dispersed, and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald is back at Lossiemouth in deserved and thankful rest. After a very worrying month, he has achieved what he set out to do: he has found a formula for future action on which victors and vanquished in the War are agreed. It is something to be very proud of.

But, as the Premier has already recognised, this is but the first step on the road to the reconstruction of Europe. The feet of the pioneers will almost certainly, as he himself suggested, be clogged by the "soulless international combines"—and, it is not impertinent to add, Mr. MacDonald knows something of international bodies.

Bankers and financial men generally appear to be rejoicing over this German Treaty, which still needs ratification by the Parliaments of the countries concerned; they are almost beginning to feel themselves back on the familiar ground of stable exchanges and a strong Germany. But even they, however necessary to existence may be the realisation of their plans, will not prevent the world from watching the increasing solvency and industrial strength of Germany with keen and unforgetful eyes.

It is, perhaps, not advantageous now to discuss the wisdom of past French policy, but no one can reasonably deny that such terms could not have been extracted from the Germans had not the Ruhr been occupied. The pro-Germans of this country were last week saying that the Conference might be wrecked because of M. Herriot's inability to "sell a liability"—viz., the occupation of the Ruhr. Happily, a saner view than this of facts and potentialities obtained, and the compromise reached is, as far as one can see, a credit to all concerned.

One must wait now for the reception of the Treaty by the French, Belgian, and German peoples.

Politics and the Judiciary.

An ugly thing happened last week which has caused in many and diverse quarters much misgiving upon the integrity, or, at least, upon the soundness of the moral bases of the Government. A certain Communist editor of a weekly newspaper had been summoned before the Courts on the ground of sedition—inciting the Army to revolt. As the case—"very serious," it was termed by the prosecution—was being proceeded with, it was suddenly decided that the editor's words counselling soldiers "to turn their weapons against their oppressors" was not advice, but merely comment!

What had happened was, according to the paper in question, the *Workers' Weekly*, that pressure had been brought by various "conscientious" Labour Members of Parliament to get the charge withdrawn, and that pressure on men with such a War record as Messrs. MacDonald and Snowden had the effect of the nullifying of the preferred charge. This transaction has appeared to most men as the interference of political authority with the judiciary.

It is an extremely grave position. Defenders of the Government's reputed action may point to the conduct of the Unionists in regard to Ulster just before the War, but, even if one admits some resemblance of principle involved, two blacks do not make a white. There is only one conceivable rule for the soldier—unquestioning obedience to superior command. And anything that tends to undermine that rule tends to undermine society, of whatsoever form it be.

More will be heard of this case, for it will take much to explain it away.

Ireland.

Although England is officially to do nothing for Ireland until the end of next month, events in that country are being closely watched here. Undue attention, perhaps, has been given to utterances of Mr. De Valera, who, in his blindest old way refuses to recognise the existence of two Irelands. This view, though more moderately expressed, of course, is really held by the President of the Free State, but it will be long before it is widely held. Great Britain knows well enough that there are two Irelands, and it does not want a Yugoslavia at its front door. It does not wish to perpetuate the differences between Ulster and the rest, but it will need all the tact of the Labour Government, when it presents its Bill for the delimitation of the Free State's boundaries, to avoid further accentuation of the existing bitterness.

Sir Alfred Mond.

In many quarters governed by practical men, whose fear of "Socialism," as they call it, is equal to their inability to describe it, the return to the House of Commons of Sir Alfred Mond, in the by-election of Carmarthen, has been greeted with satisfaction. It was no particular "Welsh" qualification, such as that of fluency in speaking the Welsh language, or keenness on Association football or on choral singing, that enabled Sir Alfred to get ahead of his Labour and Conservative opponents; but the fact that he is what is called a

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"sound" man, and one who has done much for Liberal reunion, told on the impressionable Welsh. Despite his disagreement with Liberals on the Housing question, he will, if only for his skill in debate, be warmly welcomed by Liberals in the House.

The Sudan.

It is no part of my business to write on the inner side of the question of the Sudan, but to attempt to make a record of the past week without commenting upon the remarkable unanimity of opinion which has been formed upon the Government's action in regard to the risings in that country would be an extreme omission. The Press at home is absolutely united in asserting that the Egyptians' claim to the Sudan cannot be realised, and it appears as if, war-weary and hard-up as it is, the country would stomach a small campaign for the sake of a cause in which it has no misgivings whatever.

The St. Paul's Bridge.

The Fine Arts Commission, the institution of which, as I believe I suggested at the time, would probably rank as one of the finest achievements of Mr. Baldwin's Administration, has issued its first report—upon the proposed building of the St. Paul's Bridge. It is a splendid body of men, this Commission, of diverse interests and qualifications, and it is, therefore, gratifying to find them quite decisively unanimous in opposition to the building of the bridge. Such a construction would, they assert, seriously endanger the Cathedral of St. Paul. When one thinks that but for the War the City of London would already have built such a bridge, it makes one shudder. If it had been extensively used, the foundations and the fabric of the Cathedral would have been threatened—the first because the water under the "pot earth" on which the Cathedral stands would have been drained off by the underground work for the bridge, and the second because of the shaking by traffic.

Women Police.

The Report of the Committee which was appointed four months ago to review the position and potentialities of women police has now been issued. It will be remembered that under the Geddes axe the number of women constables for the whole country was reduced to 110. The wisdom of this step has been revised, and it is now considered advisable to have 200 for London alone But all amateur and unofficial organisations should, the Report thinks, be suppressed—a direct hit at the innumerable "welfare" societies and other institutions whose fetishes are interference and moral "uplift." The Report recognises no "hard and fast line between welfare work and the policeman's duty to prevent crime," but it is leaving it to each local authority to decide whether or not there is work for women police in its particular area.

English Forests.

It is being realised with something of alarm that the Empire's supply of timber is giving out, that forests are growing smaller, indeed, throughout the world, from Canada to the Sudan. But steps are being taken. In England alone, although we draw 95 per cent. of our timber supplies from abroad, a far-reaching scheme is being launched. There are in this country large tracts of land which can serve no agricultural purpose, and it is proposed to plant these tracts with trees. At Rendlesham, in Suffolk, the problem is already being grappled with, and over 2,000 acres on which nothing but rabbits formerly grew, you may now see 15,000,000 trees—pines, firs, poplars, larches, beeches, and oaks, all grown from seed.

Government and Party.

How much the Labour Party has yet to learn of English tradition, particularly how it has to unlearn the supposed fact that we are a democratic people, is to be seen from the resolutions, just published, which it is to discuss at its annual conference next October. Labour organisations are actually asking that the Government of the country should be put under the control of the Executive Committee, which is annually elected by the Party Conference. Nobody believes now that *vox populi* is *vox dei*, and, even if they did, Englishmen, at least, would not consent to the substitution of delegation for representation. It is, perhaps, not to be wondered at that such a crudity should emanate from so young a party, but it is just as well to know all about our rulers and their ideas.

Roman Britain.

The days are gone, perhaps for ever, when we shall boast of our Anglo-Saxon forbears, their freedom, and all the other virtues which the Victorians supposed them to possess. With more intimate knowledge, and certainly with a larger sense of the oneness of Western civilisation, we have now made it the fashion to claim real relationship with the Roman conquerors of Britain. How real our debt was to them is made very manifest by a map of Roman Britain just issued by the Ordnance Survey Department—a very worthy State Department by the way. The whole grand history of the Roman conquest is in this map. You can find in the roads and civil communities and military posts (on the map, lines and circles and squares) the story of that conquest. You can see how first the Romans made the road from Richborough (which, after many years, became in the Great War once more a port) to London, and then how they struck out the great roads through Silchester, St. Albans, and Colchester. And in the West, in the Midlands, and in the North, their history can be similarly traced. The Ordnance Department is to be congratulated on this fascinating work.

The Decrease in Crime.

It is proof of the influence, and, too, of the degeneration of the newspapers, that no remark is more common at the present time than that crime is on the increase. Explanation of this belief is easy, but it is a mistaken belief nevertheless. For crime is certainly on the decrease. Even in the case of juveniles, who, as adults love to assert, have been so sadly corrupted by the kinema, the number of crimes committed since the War bears, as the recently published Report of the Home Office on the subject shows, no comparison with that of pre-War years. Further, the cases of neglect of or cruelty to children are far fewer than they were before the War, and Heaven knows that in this servile State inspection is on the increase. So that this perpetual grouse at the ills of our time is but the reappearance in us of the phenomenon so familiar to our forefathers.

Alter Ego.

M. Davidovitch's Cabinet obtained a vote of confidence in the Yugoslav Skupshtina, on August 13, by a majority of 55 (169 votes to 114), and the House adjourned until later in the month.

His Holiness the Khalifa-ul-Massih, Bashir-ed-Din Mahmud Ahmad, the head of the Ahmadia movement in Islam, arrived in London this week to attend the Conference of Living Religions in the Empire at Wembley.

Prominent Indian ladies are drafting representations to be made to the Reforms Inquiry Committee urging the introduction of woman suffrage and the right of women to stand for election. They state that owing to social conditions the grant of such a right to Indian women is needed more in India than in Western countries.

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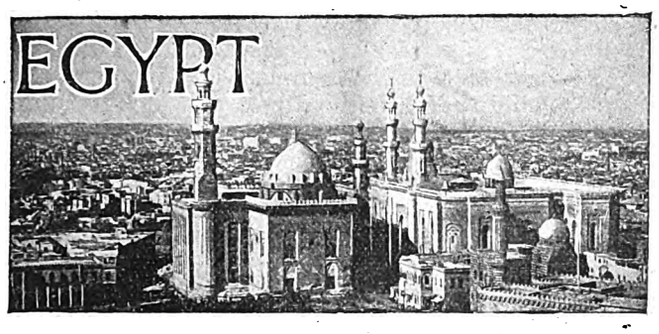
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, August 9.

The Mecca Caravan.

The Egyptian caravan returned this week from Mecca, and on Thursday the ceremony of receiving back the Mahmal was performed on the Square below the Citadel in the presence of Mohamed Said Pasha, the Acting Premier, who represented King Fuad. After the ceremony the Ministers held a long meeting, when they discussed the report presented by the Emir El Hej. According to information that has leaked out, the treatment accorded to the Egyptian caravan by the Hejaz authorities was most unsatisfactory. In fact, so outrageously did the latter behave that it is quite possible that the Egyptian Government will refrain from sending another caravan to the Holy Places until it receives satisfactory assurances with regard to its reception and treatment. There appear, indeed, to be all the makings of another dispute between the Hejaz and Egypt similar to the one that occurred last year.

The Abyssinians and the Egyptian Copts.

Another interesting dispute is the one that has existed for some time between the Abyssinians and the Coptic Church with regard to Deir Sultan, the latter's monastery in Jerusalem, which was brought to a head by Ras Taffari during his recent visit to Cairo. Deir Sultan belongs to the Coptic community, which has allowed the Abyssinians, who are adherents to the Coptic Church, and have no hospices of their own in the Holy City, to use part of the Deir for their own purposes.

The Abyssinians feel the position very keenly, especially as every other religious community has a place of its own in or on the borders of the Holy precincts, and for many years they have tried to induce the Coptic community to cede to them against payment a certain portion of Deir Sultan. This, so far, the Coptic community has declined to do; but it has now intimated its willingness to discuss the question with representatives of the Abyssinian Government, and there is reason to believe that some settlement satisfactory to the latter will be arrived at, since the Coptic community have no desire to lose the adherence of the Abyssinian Church, which Ras Taffari plainly hinted would take place if satisfaction were not given them.

War Anniversary.

The tenth anniversary of Great Britain's entrance into the War was celebrated on Monday last at the British military cemetery at Hadra. On this occasion, the French colony again placed a wreath on the memorial cross, and speeches were made by the French Consul, M. Arvengas, and by Lieut.-Col. J. Haskard, Officer Commanding the 1st Battalion East Yorkshires. In addition to members of the British community, a large number of the French residents and officials were present.

Alleged Egyptian Shortcomings.

The recent article publised in *The Times* with regard to the shortcomings of the Irrigation Service and of the railways has aroused widespread comment here. Officially and *officieusement*, the facts therein reported are flatly contradicted, and the vernacular Press has been full of protests addressed to it from all parts of the country by members of the Irrigation Service and by landowners. But as at the same time these papers publish protests from the same parts of the country at the lack of water from which many districts are suffering, it may be taken that the state of affairs as reported by the London newspaper is not so very far from the truth.

As regards the railways, it is only fair to the very able Egyptian who is now General Manager to say that the present state of affairs already existed before he took office. It is a notorious fact that the two British General Managers who preceded him were each compelled to resign because the Under-Secretary of State for Communications—the railways depend from the Ministry of Communications—persistently rejected every proposal which they made for the improvement and maintenance of the railways, and insisted on administering the railways from the Ministry, instead of leaving those at the head of the former the liberty of action without which no great enterprise can be run.

Warning after warning was given by these General Managers of the precarious state into which the railways were degenerating as a result of this policy, but the Egyptian Under-Secretary declined to pay any attention, and, being given full powers by the Cabinet, gradually made the position untenable for these Englishmen.

It was only after they had left that the Cabinet realised how injurious had been the policy followed, and that, the responsible Egyptian Under-Secretary having declined himself to take on the post, and, in consequence, having been made to resign, Abdul Hamid Pasha Suliman courageously accepted what for some time must inevitably be

***Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.**

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the thankless job of general manager. The responsibility for the very serious state of the Egyptian railways must be laid entirely at the door of the Cabinet, which allowed the Egyptian Under-Secretary to overrule the advice of its British technical advisers, and Abdul Hamid Suliman Pasha is deserving of all sympathy and support in his efforts to re-establish a service the efficiency of which in the past was always very high.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, July 24.

Fatal Flying Accident.

A British pilot and a Kurdish chieftain lost their lives in a flying accident near Mosul on July 22. Sergeant C. A. Dicks, piloting an aeroplane of No. 55 Squadron, was leaving for Baghdad, taking as his passenger Mohammed Agha, Deputy for Zakho and sheikh of the Silfani tribe, when the machine suddenly dived and crashed to the ground, bursting into flames. In spite of great efforts on the part of a number of mechanics, the pilot could not be extricated, but Mohammed Agha was dragged clear of the wreckage and taken to the hospital, where he died a few hours later.

July 30.

Political Tranquillity.

As far as the political world is concerned there is little to report. The Constituent Assembly still continues to meet to pass the Electoral Law, though the interest taken is lethargic, and on some days so few deputies put in an appearance that no discussion can take place for want of a quorum. The tottering Cabinet has not yet fallen; it appears that some difficulty is still being experienced in filling up the less important Ministries.

The King has recovered from his recent indisposition, but has not yet taken his proposed holiday. The difficulty of choosing a suitable retreat emphasises once again Iraq's lack of any hill station where relief from the blazing heat of the plains may be obtained. The recent opening up of the desert motor route has made the Lebanon hills available, but King Faisal is, naturally, not desirous of visiting Syria. Places as far apart as Simla and Mount Carmel have been suggested, but the opinion current at present is that His Majesty will pay a brief visit to the hills in the north of Iraq—perhaps to the Kurdish mountains, which have once again come under the administration of this country.

Britain and Iraq.

Some stir was created in Baghdad political circles by Mr. J. H. Thomas's reply in the House of Commons, to the effect that the rider attached to the acceptance of the Anglo-Iraq Treaty by the Constituent Assembly of Iraq, in which it was declared that the Treaty should be null and void if the British Government failed to safeguard the rights of Iraq in Mosul, could not affect the validity of the Treaty when it was ratified, nor, in the opinion of the British Government, did it impose any responsibility on that Government.

To allay any possible misunderstanding, the Acting High Commissioner issued a *communiqué* in which he explained that he had obtained the authority of the British Government to announce that "the statement was designed merely to make it clear that the Assembly's resolution did not in itself impose any fresh responsibility. The British Government does not contemplate any modification whatever in regard to their policy, which is well known, with regard to the northern frontier of Iraq, and has no intention whatever of abandoning their support to the frontier claim put forward at Constantinople on behalf of Iraq."

Baghdad City.

Probably few cities which boast of being capitals have been as little touched by the reforming hand of modern civilisation as the capital of Iraq. Baghdad possesses only one main street, a thoroughfare driven straight through the city during the War by the Turkish military authorities. The people whose homes were thus ruthlessly destroyed are still, it may be noted, clamouring for compensation. The surface of this road is abominable; during the winter rains it becomes a bog, while in summer the multitudinous ridges and pot-holes make it little better for transport. The Municipality, being on the verge of bankruptcy, can do little or nothing to improve matters.

In the same way, Baghdad's water supply is a disgrace to any capital with pretensions to civilisation. The supply is scanty and precarious, full of river sediment, and at times so heavily chlorinated (with a view to sterilisation) as to be almost undrinkable. The fault lies with the original installation, put down by the Turks. The mains, for example, were made up of a heterogeneous collection of pipes of every shape and size, an 8 in. pipe feeding a 1 in., and so on. All were joined together with mud, grease and rags, with consequent leakage on the one hand and silting up of the pipes on the other. The Baghdad water supply has now been taken out of the hands of the Municipality, and handed over to a Water Board under the presidency of a British official. Arrangements are in hand for a loan of four lakhs, and it is hoped that by next summer the capital will be assured of a sufficient supply of pure drinking water.

Fatalities in the R.A.F.

The Royal Air Force has been unfortunate in having a series of accidents, all ending fatally. Last week, as already recorded, a pilot and his passenger were burnt to death. News has now been received that Flight-Lieut. Day, M.C., and Pilot Officer D. R. Stewart, of 84 Squadron, were obliged to make a forced landing in the desert not far from Nasiriyah. The machine was located the same evening, but the officers had left their aeroplane, presumably to walk to the railway line, some twelve miles distant. Search has been made for these officers both by aeroplane and by armoured car, but no trace could be found of them. They have accordingly been officially reported as missing.

The second fatality occurred at the aerodrome at

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Kirkuk. Flying Officer M. B. F. Walsin, of No. 1 (Fighter) Squadron, while about to land with a Scout machine, crashed from a height of 100 feet and was killed. No cause for the accident has yet been definitely established, though it is thought that the pilot suddenly became ill while in the air.

August 6.

Dissolution of the Constituent Assembly.

After sitting for a little over four months, the Constituent Assembly, having completed the last of its three tasks—the new electoral law—was dissolved on August 2. On the whole, it may be said that, though a lamentable lack of decision was shown in connection with the Anglo-Iraq Treaty and perhaps too little interest taken in the framing of the Constitution and the electoral law, the Assembly has acquitted itself very creditably. The President (Abdul Mohsin Beg as Sa'adun) was too unwell to attend the last meeting, but his speech was read out amid repeated applause. He laid stress on the fact that the country had now, for the first time, a proper Parliamentary system, and, thus equipped, should begin to make headway. He also thanked the British for the valuable assistance they had given in establishing in Iraq a form of government such as was desired by the people.

Fall of the Cabinet.

At the last meeting of the Constituent Assembly Ja'afar Pasha informed the Deputies that his Cabinet had resigned. This announcement caused no surprise, as the Cabinet had been expected to fall for some time past, and probably would have done had it not been for King Faisal's indisposition. His Majesty's health is much improved, though he has not yet taken the short leave, as was at one time stated to be his intention.

The new Premier is Yassin Pasha al Hashimi, who is reputed to be one of the most talented men in Iraq, though somewhat unstable in character. He has had a varied career, being at one time commander of the Turkish forces in Cilicia during the Great War, and later Prime Minister of the newly created and short-lived Arab State in Syria. He was Minister of Communications and Works in the Cabinet immediately preceding the one which has just fallen, and has lately been very much in the public eye as one of the chief leaders of those opposed to the ratification of the Anglo-Iraq Treaty.

The Ministry of the Interior has been offered to, and accepted by, Abdul Muhsin Beg as Sa'adun—a former Prime Minister and, until its dissolution, the President of the Constituent Assembly. No better choice could have been made, as Abdul Muhsin's sound common sense and honesty of purpose will be of far greater value than mere brilliance in tackling the many difficult problems which confront his Ministry. His previous work as Premier, during which time he also filled the post of Minister of Interior, has earned for him a well-deserved reputation, and he has done much to establish the new State on a firm foundation.

Sir Haskail Sassoon, K.B.E., returns as Minister of Finance, which post, except for a short break under the last Cabinet, he has held in successive Cabinets since the formation of the Arab Government in 1920. He is one of the ablest financiers in the country, and acquired considerable administrative experience during his official career in Constantinople before the War.

These three men are the leading personalities in the new Cabinet, though the other Ministries have also been filled by capable men. The new Cabinet shows every promise of being a strong and successful one, and is likely to be less subservient to the Palace than its predecessor. The other Ministries have been filled as follows:—

Justice, Saiyid Rashid Ali Al Gilani; Communications and Works, Muzahim Beg Al Pachachi; Auqaf, Ibrahim Beg Al Haidari; Defence, Prime Minister; Education, Sheikh Muhammad Ridha Al Shabibi.

Another World Flyer.

Yet another world flyer in the person of Major Zanni, the Argentine aviator, has passed through Baghdad. His arrival was unheralded, and he landed on a deserted aerodrome. He received, however, a cordial welcome from the R.A.F. officers as soon as they knew of his presence on their landing ground.

Major Zanni left Aleppo in the early morning of the day on which he arrived here with the intention of reaching Bushire the same evening. He was, however, delayed by fog, and though he proceeded with his flight after only a short rest in Baghdad, he did not get further than Basra, having covered in one day the creditable distance of about 800 miles.

General.

Major Forbes Leith arrived in Baghdad on August 2 in his 14 h.p. Colonial Model Wolseley car, which he has driven across Europe and Asia Minor. After a few days in Baghdad he proposes to proceed to Quetta, thereby completing the first overland journey to India. He is accompanied by Mr. Allan Wroe, the diarist of the expedition, and Mr. Redknap (of Pathé Frères), who has already exposed some hundreds of feet of film in the picturesque (to the newcomer) city of Baghdad. The roads, as was to be expected, were in some cases practically non-existent, and at times not more than thirty miles were covered in a fifteen hour day. On more than one occasion the car was hopelessly bogged, and it speaks well for British products that no mechanical trouble has been experienced since leaving England, while the Rapson tyres have been punctured once only.

A new bridge is shortly to be constructed across the Tigris just north of Baghdad, linking the two municipalities of Mu'Adhdham and Kazimain. This bridge is to replace one which existed in Turkish times, but was destroyed during the War. Both the above towns are important places of pilgrimage, and the new boat bridge—the funds for which have been found by pooling the resources of the two municipalities—will be of great benefit not only to the pilgrims, but to the general public.

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PERSIA.

Teheran, July 21.

The Russio-Persian Commercial Agreement.

The terms of the above agreement, recently signed here, have now been published, but apart from the fact that the advantages seem to be all on the side of the Russians, these call for no especial comment, and they do not seem to have aroused much interest in Persian commercial circles.

Another World-Cyclist.

Another Indian, Scouter Davar, who started from Bombay last January to "girdle the globe," as he calls it, on a cycle, bearing an autograph letter from the Viceroy, who received him at Simla, to the Secretary of State for India, arrived here a short time ago. He has spent part of his time here in climbing to the top of Mount Demavend, whose almost perfect cone, snow-covered all the year round, rises to the not inconsiderable height of nearly 19,000 feet. Although the ascent is not difficult the mountain has not often been scaled, especially by Europeans. Scouter Davar leaves here in a few days to continue his tour; unlike his compatriots, who, as I mentioned in a previous letter, are attempting the same feat *via* Mesopotamia and Palestine, he has chosen the shorter but probably much more difficult route through Russia.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, undated.

Cyprus for Tourists.

There is at last some talk of a serious effort to bring about the development of a tourist trade. Hitherto it has been entirely neglected (except as regards the advertising of a few hotels), although it has been pointed out on various occasions, and, indeed, in the columns of The Near East, what a loss the island suffers by neglecting what could be made a source of some wealth. A leading Nicosia paper now asks, "How is it that Egypt attracts visitors?" It is, of course, due not only to the great attractions of the country, but also to the well organised campaign of advertisement which is carried on systematically year by year. It is quite clear that advertising is necessary, as carried out with success in so many countries. It rests with the Cypriots themselves to bring about the desired results. A syndicate should be formed, and the island properly boomed. There can be little doubt that Messrs. Cook and Sons would do their part in promoting winter tours in Cyprus if it were realised that local efforts were leading to a measure of success, without which no great Agency would, of course, take risks. If the movement now talked of is properly supported, there is no reason why Cyprus should not be included in the itineraries of visitors to the Levant, and an annual stream of winter tourists would acquaint themselves and others with the many attractions, including climatic, of the island.

The Turkish Community.

The Ottoman element has suffered from the general depression, and takes a rather gloomy view of the outlook. About 700 Turks have left Cyprus during the last few months, and families continue to leave in considerable numbers, many being in search of work in different parts of Turkey. There is trouble in connection with education. Hitherto the Director of the Higher School (called *Idádi*) in Nicosia has been appointed from Constantinople, but the authorities there announce that they intend to discontinue doing so. The Turks of Nicosia are much disturbed, and are protesting. Should the decision be adhered to, there would be great difficulty in filling the post, as there is no one, it is said, qualified to take it among island residents. There was very little inducement for pilgrimages to Mecca this year, partly in view of recent unfavourable experiences of pilgrims in the Hejaz.

General News.

Mr. Breton, of the firm of Messrs. Henckell, du Buisson and Co., of London, left for England, and the outcome of his careful investigations regarding silk in the island will be awaited with the greatest interest. Samples of silk reeled by the Agricultural Department have been sent to the Imperial Institute, and pronouncements from there are also awaited with interest.

The gathering of caroubs (locust beans) begins on August 18 in most districts, and great hopes are, as usual, entertained regarding prices of the new crop. Tithe cereals in large quantities are now offered for sale by the Government at their different grain stores. As regards sales of smaller quantities now sanctioned by Government to needy peasants, it is complained that the Government increases the prices as market prices rise, and that there is therefore very little benefit for purchasers. It is, they say, a gift which is no gift (δῶρον ἄδωρον). The market price of wheat in Nicosia at present is 6s. and upwards a bushel, according to quality.

Professor Simos Meuardos, of Athens University, who for some years held the chair of Modern Greek at Oxford, is now at Nicosia. He is preparing a new work on Cyprus.

NEW BISHOP OF TRAVANCORE AND COCHIN.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has appointed the Rev. Edward Alfred Livingstone Moore to succeed Dr. Hope Gill as Bishop of Travancore and Cochin. Mr. Moore, after holding a curacy at Aston, Birmingham, became a missionary of the Church Missionary Society, and for the last 28 years has done valued and varied service in three dioceses in South India. His first term of work in India was spent in the Madras Divinity College; he became vice-principal of the C.M.S. College, Kottayam, in the diocese of Travancore, in 1902; and later returned for another period of work to the Madras Divinity College. In 1915 Mr. Moore became a superintending missionary in the diocese of Tinnevelly, where he has taken a very active part in developing the Indian Church.

The Agent of the Hejaz Government has requested the Egyptian Government to intervene and suppress the newspaper attacks against King Hussein.

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YUGOSLAV POLICY.

[The following article is composed of extracts, relating to the Home and Foreign policy of Yugoslavia, from a statement of M. Liubomir Davidovitch, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, made before the National Assembly, Belgrade, on August 6, 1924.—Ed.]

The Government of which I have the honour to be the head regarded it as its first duty to appear before the National Assembly to lay before it its working programme and to solicit its approval of its policy. For this reason, therefore, as soon as the Government was formed, its first step was to submit to His Majesty the King (in accordance with Article 52 of the Constitution) the proposal to convoke the National Assembly in an extraordinary session. In addressing this first meeting of the extraordinary session in the name of the Royal Government for the purpose of expounding the policy which the Government intends to pursue, and in submitting this policy to your objective and competent judgment, I am giving a further indication of the Government's determination to take its stand firmly and inflexibly on parliamentary ground and to remain within the limits set by parliamentary practice.

The new Government takes the helm of the State with a firm determination to give, resolutely and with due deliberation, such a direction to the policy of our country as will lead most rapidly and most advantageously to a final and happy consolidation of our internal relations. We are fully aware of all the enormous difficulties which must necessarily be encountered in connection with all problems relating to internal organisation in a country so extensive as ours, and consisting of provinces which until recently had been separated by the centuries and by destiny. But we are convinced that all these difficulties, however great they may be, can be overcome, and can be overcome rapidly, provided that our State policy is directed in such a manner as will arouse and strengthen the fraternal sentiments which unite us, and that those who are responsible to the King and to the people, to history and to posterity, and to you for the affairs of State, honestly and with all sincerity endeavour—while avoiding irreconcilable formulas—to probe the depth and grasp the spirit of each problem, bringing to its solution that breadth of mind without which nothing durable and useful can be accomplished in our country in these days; and provided, above all, that all our responsible politicians are profoundly convinced that our common House must be set in order by the united efforts of all working in harmony, and that its foundations must rest on unshakable concord and true and cordial understanding between the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. We have nothing to take from one another; it is our duty to trust in one another—sincerely, loyally, unreservedly, and without ulterior motive—with all the fraternal affection by which, in spite of everything, we are united.

This is the basis upon which the present Government has established its policy. Its entire programme, which I have the honour of submitting to you, has been logically developed from these fundamental facts.

In its foreign policy the Government, by its conduct, by all its activities, and by its attitude towards each and all, will endeavour to emphasise and clearly indicate the international importance of this national State of ours. It is a State of which the nation ought to be proud, and of which it ought to know that it has reason to be proud. While giving unremitting attention to the care and development of the defensive forces of the State, we shall preserve and foster with the greatest care the important relations and the valuable goodwill which our nation has already won. It shall be our endeavour to render the allied relations which united us, and still unite us, with France, England, and America, a permanent and unchangeable factor in the foreign policy of these countries, even as it is the principal factor in our foreign policy. We shall seek to maintain the alliance concluded with the Kingdom of Italy, in the hope that both countries will derive from it advantages which will compensate them for the heavy sacrifices made in order to bring about this alliance in the mutual interests of both our countries and in the interests of peace. We shall endeavour with all our strength to maintain and render more intimate the alliance which unites our State with the brotherly State of Czecho-Slovakia and the Kingdom of Roumania, being convinced that it is the chief and irreplaceable factor for peace and peaceful progress in Central and South-Eastern Europe.

Taking as the basis of its policy respect for the international treaties concluded, and taking its stand on the principle of unconditional respect, on the part of each and all, for the order of things created by the Treaty of Peace to which our State was also a signatory, and for its fulfilment in so far as it has not yet been fulfilled, the Royal Government will endeavour to maintain and foster with all the other States also—and especially with the neighbouring States—correct and amicable relations. Taking as its principle "the Balkans for the Balkan nations," the Royal Government will devote special attention to the relations with our neighbours in the Balkans. The Government hopes that the profound community of interests which unites all the Balkan peoples, and the knowledge that the liberty and independence of no one of them can be jeopardised without at the same time jeopardising the security of all the others, will contribute to the realisation of its desire for the establishment and strengthening of friendly relations with these States. The Government will endeavour, in any event, to maintain the friendly ties which already exist between our State and Greece.

Finally, the Government hopes also to be able to re-establish within the shortest possible time normal relations with those States with which official relations have not yet been renewed. It will, of course, zealously protect from the slightest injury our dignity as a State and as a nation, as well as our interests.

As a European and democratic State we ought to remain intimately associated with the great democracies of the West; but the Government hopes to find means of reconciling the two points of view, at present contradictory, with regard to international relations and obligations, which has hitherto been the chief obstacle to the renewal of relations with the brotherly Russian people.

In the name of our country, whose eyes have always been fixed on a high ideal of peace and international liberty, the Royal Government will do everything possible to strengthen and develop that young international organism, the League of Nations, which ought to lead us towards this ideal.

A tour in Czechoslovakia arranged by the Czech Society of Great Britain, which was postponed last June, will start on Monday, September 1. Any persons who wish to join the tour may apply to Mrs. B. Tufnell, Room 289, Kensington Palace Mansions, W.

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Near East Bookshelf.

THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN.

"THE GRAND PRIORY OF THE ORDER OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM IN ENGLAND." A Short History by Colonel E. J. King, C.M.G., F.S.A., Knight of Grace of the Order. K.C.B., A.D.C., F.S.A., Sub-Prior of the Order. (London: St. With a Foreword by Major-Gen. The Earl of Scarbrough, G.B.E., John's Gate, .1924.)

The Hospitaller Order has inspired a wealth of literature. Within my memory as a member of and worker for the Order covering a period of twenty-seven years, the names of Bedford and Holbeche, Tenison and Kingsley, Tuker and Fincham, irrespective of countless articles in journals and periodicals of the day and of pamphlets and lectures, are familiar as authors of books which have kept before the public eye the great history of the Order in the past and its notable ambulance and first-aid work in the present. The Press of Rome in 1885 published a quarto volume of over 300 pages which purports to be the bibliography of the Order up to that date. Since that date much has been written and much has been done in the name and in the service of that Order, and, I almost venture to think, by no nation more steadily and strenuously than by the British. From the literary point of view British publications can hardly be held to rival the French works which bear the names of Thuasue, Maunier, and Le Roulx; but, on the other hand, British authors have concentrated on the history and work of the Grand Priory of England, and among them none more effectively and with greater proof of independent research than Colonel King. We are indebted to him for unearthing from the University Library of Ghent the illustration given at page 52. It is that of the execution of Sir John Langstrother in the presence of Edward IV. after the battle of Tewkesbury. Few English Knights of the Order had so distinguished a career as Langstrother, he having been not only Grand Prior but also Lord High Treasurer of England. He had also been Grand Commander of Cyprus, and Colonel King very reasonably adds (p. 53): "It is more than probable that, had it not been for the tragic fate which was soon to befall him in England, he might have crowned his career on the death of Orsini by being the only English Grand Master of Rhodes." The seat of Langstrother's government as Grand Commander of Cyprus was the castle of Kolossi, near Limassol. Recently, the Grand Priory of England has been instrumental in securing that castle from the depredations of the peasantry of the neighbourhood. The castle has been declared an "ancient monument," and, as such, placed under Governmental protection. It is probable that the Grand Priory of England, although it enjoys at present no recognition from the headquarters of the Order at Rome, has in the last half-century done more than any other Grand Priory to keep up the connection between Europe and the mediæval centres of the Hospitaller Power. It is Britain, again, which won back, after a lapse of some seven centuries, Jerusalem and the Holy Land from the Turk, and if a happy thought has suggested that Field-Marshal Lord Allenby should assume a title once honoured in the English "langue" (Col. King prefers "tongue"), viz., that of Turcopolier or Commander of the Light Cavalry of the Order, it may at least honourably rest as an ideal inspiration.

If the most excellent book which Colonel King has brought out, the result of untiring study and research, has at once stirred our pride and roused our keenest interest in the past history of the Order, it has none the less, or even more, won our admiration for the part which the Order has played during the past half-century as a great national and imperial educator and worker. It has educated and worked in peace time, and that very education and work have prepared it for its magnificent work in war. The Cross of St. John is a little liable to be swamped in war-time by the world-pervading and international badge of the Red Cross, but it none the less has kept, and keeps, its head proudly and efficiently above water. It carried its work into our Overseas Dominions very soon after it had been established in Great Britain, and up to the commencement of the Great War the St. John Ambulance Association alone was responsible for creating and maintaining the ambulance and hospital resources which India then placed at the disposal of her armies.

The appearance of Colonel King's book has most happily coincided with the Imperial British Exhibition at Wembley and with the Investiture at Buckingham Palace on St. John the Baptist's Day of 1924, at which ceremony were present members of the Order from all parts of the British Empire.

The sphere of war and work of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem from the tenth century to the present day has been the Near East, and be it Jerusalem, Cyprus, Rhodes, or Malta, on each its mark is indelibly fixed. The entire story is admirably summarised in Colonel King's book.

It should be added that Colonel King has selected most judiciously his illustrations, which recall at once great mediæval events and indicate the forces which inspire and control the work of to-day. The "Foreword" contributed by Lord Scarbrough sums up well the scope and purport of this very ably written book.

It is to be regretted that Mr. Cecil Torr, the "Small-Talker of Wreyland," resurrecting a controversy thirty-five years old, has endeavoured to throw discredit on this book.

A. C. Yate.

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Precious Stones of the Bible." By the Rev. Chas. W. Cooper, F.G.S. (London: H. R. Allenson, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

"The Annual of the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem." Vols. II. and III. for 1921-1922. Edited for the Managing Committee by Warren J. Moulton. (London: Humphrey Milford. 21s. net.)

"In a Shantung Garden." By Louise Jordan Miln. (London: Hodder and Stoughton, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

CORRECTION.

We regret that in our review last week of Mr. E. A. Reynolds-Ball's "Black's Guide to Jerusalem," the publisher's name was wrongly given. It should have been Messrs. A. and C. Black, Ltd.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

August 21, 1924 (New Style).
August 8, 1924 (Old Style).
Muharram 20, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Ab 21, 5684, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Valentine Chirol has returned to London from the United States and Canada.

The Albanian Minister returned to London last Saturday from The Hague.

Lord Clonmore has left London for Sofia, and will be absent for about a month.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala arrived last week at the Ritz Hotel, Paris, from Venice.

Sir Dhunjibhoy and Lady Bomanji arrived last week at the Carlton Hotel, St. Moritz.

M. C. Collas, Counsellor at the Greek Legation, has been promoted to the rank of Minister.

A son was born to Prince and Princess Paul of Serbia on August 13 at White Lodge, Richmond.

Mr. U. Grant Smith, the United States Minister to Albania, left London on August 17 for Tirana.

The Counsellor at the Persian Legation and Princess Mirza Arasteh have returned to London from Belgium.

Major the Hon. William Ormsby-Gore left Southampton on August 15 in the R.M.S. Kildonan Castle for Cape Town.

Dr. S. B. Rohold, President of the Biblical School at Haifa, Palestine, has arrived in London from Cairo on a short visit.

M. Smodlaka, Secretary at the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, returned to London on August 12 from Belgrade.

Viscount Erleigh, son of the Earl of Reading, and Viscountess Erleigh arrived in Bombay last Friday. They will return to England on September 27.

The Maharaja and Maharanee of Jind were among the passengers in the White Star liner Majestic, which left New York on August 16 for Cherbourg and Southampton.

On August 15, at Portsmouth, Admiral Sir Henry F. Oliver hoisted his flag in the battleship Revenge as Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet, in succession to Admiral Sir John de Robeck, whose flag was struck in the Queen Elizabeth. The King has conferred the G.C.V.O. on Admiral de Robeck.

The Crown Prince of Roumania entertained at luncheon last Friday King George of Greece, Prince Paul of Greece, the Roumanian Minister, and Lord Thomson, Secretary for Air. The Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, was unable to be present. The Crown Prince left London for Bucharest last Monday afternoon.

The Hon. W. P. Barton, Mrs. Annie Besant, and the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj left London last Thursday by the Peninsular and Oriental special train to join the Macedonia at Marseilles for Bombay. Among other passengers embarking in the Macedonia at Marseilles on August 15 were General Sir Ronald and Lady Storrs, for Port Said, and the Maharaja of Rajpipla, the Begum Saheba of Manavadar, and the Maharaja and Maharani of Dharampur and suite, for Bombay.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Smyrna has been visited recently by a Roumanian gunboat flotilla.

Prince Taffari, Regent of Abyssinia, left Marseilles last Thursday *en route* for home via Greece.

Lord Beatty visited the graves in Gallipoli last week. He arrived at Constantinople on August 17.

Admiral Vassif Pasha has been appointed president of the Straits (Dardanelles) Commission.

The Rev. C. Neill is resigning the vicarage of Great Baddow, Essex, to take up medical mission work in India.

The Hungarian Government has closed the Roumanian frontier owing to an outbreak of cattle disease in Transylvania.

The American cruiser Trenton passed through the Suez Canal on August 14, bound for Bushire, Persia, in order to bring home the body of Major Imbrie, the murdered American Consul

Signor Francesco Taliani, Counsellor of the Italian Embassy, who has been transferred from London to Constantinople, left Rome last Thursday for Turkey to take up his new post.

M. Raditch, the Croatian peasant leader, who fled to Moscow during the rule of the late Yugoslav Government, has, according to a Reuter message, returned to Yugoslavia.

At a plenary sitting of the Croat Peasant Party held at Zagreb, a vote of confidence was adopted in M. Raditch, the leader.

The Roumanian Cabinet has decided that the negotiations for a concordat with the Holy See shall be suspended until after the passing in the autumn of a Bill dealing with the organisation of public worship.

Count Robert de Caix, the Secretary-General of the French Government in Syria, has arrived in Jerusalem to discuss joint action against the brigands who are raiding on the marches between Syria and Transjordan.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1924.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN INDIA.

A survey of the present position in India appears to justify the view we expressed at the beginning of the year that the political situation, while it was complex, and perhaps awkward, was by no means destitute of promise. It will be remembered that the elections of last autumn resulted in the practical elimination of the Liberals, who for three years had dominated the legislatures, and the return of a large number of extremists, pledged, so far as election pledges count, to wreck the Constitution from within. That result has not followed. The Constitution continues to work, though in two provinces the progress of nation building is for the moment retarded by the refusal of the councils to vote funds, and the wreckage now floating on the surface consists rather of the fragments of the extremist *bloc*, a craft which has quickly proved to be unseaworthy. It has, in fact, become clear that many of the self-styled wreckers are really penitents in process of rallying to the Constitution. They do not say so in India just yet, for faces have first to be saved, and pledges have to be obliterated by the kindly hand of time, but, judging from actions rather than words, the rallying movement has made considerable headway, and some important sections are definitely on the path which leads to constitutional opposition. For the Liberals, at the moment we see less hope. They are all leaders now, for they lost their party by neglecting the constituencies. Men of greater political experience would now be at work on the scene of that loss, but they appear to think it more important to devote their energies to extracting materials for a new programme from the authorities at Whitehall. Whatever success they may possibly achieve in that direction, the fact remains that the power to exploit it must be obtained from the electorate in India, and it is certainly to be regretted that they are doing so little to take advantage of the present reaction against extremist ideas. The most that can be hoped is that they may realise the need for work in time to make a more effective display when the next general election comes round; in the meantime, we fear their influence must remain much less than is due to their position in the country.

Outside the limited code of practical politicians, there are signs of movement which may mean genuine growth. The Indian Moslems are, as our readers know, very far from homogeneous. For a time they were welded into a semblance of unity by the false and malicious cry that their religion was in danger from the British Government, and their enlarged political influence was mortgaged to the extremists by their self-constituted leaders. A complete change in the situation was wrought by the decision of Turkey to abolish the Khalifate, and now there are signs that Indian Moslems are trying to think matters out afresh, are recognising that, if their religion is in danger, it is not from the British Administration, and are recoiling from the spectre of a purely indigenous Government, under which, in their view, Hindu ideals would necessarily be supreme. The momentary results of this train of thought, as it operates among the masses, are undoubtedly deplorable, for to it must be attributed some part of the increased communal tension which prevails throughout Northern India, but among intelligent and educated Moslems its effect will be salutary in the long run in so far as it teaches them that in politics realities are what count, that men of like views must work together to secure their common objects, and that, so long as religion overrides all secular considerations, an indigenous Government is their greatest danger.

Under the existing system of representation, Indian Moslems have greater political power than their numbers alone would warrant, and their position thus stands in marked contrast to that of the Hindu and Animist lower classes, who at present have no political power at all. To our mind, the most significant fact in the India of to-day is that these classes are just beginning to lift their heads after uncounted centuries of oppression. Their voice is still feeble, but it is beginning to be heard, and from North and South alike comes the cry for help. To tanners and sweepers, as well as to Moslems, the greatest danger is an indigenous Government dominated by Hindu ideas, and the men who have suffered most from those ideas in the past are begging for protection against their predominance in the future. They are begging for protection to-day, but such movements grow quickly, and they will be demanding power to-morrow. Their claims are well founded in history and experience, and the authorities will be wise to meet them before they become irresistible. A wide democratic franchise is the only final solution, but it must come by degrees, and these classes, through no fault of their own, are at the bottom of the scale, nor must the fact be overlooked that there is in India at the present time a certain amount of feeling that the very narrow franchise now existing is still too wide. The case seems to be one where some special machinery is called for during the transition stage to protect the lower classes against the vagaries of a one per cent. electorate. Various suggestions on this point have reached us from time to time, among others the interesting idea of a Tribunate, through which the unenfranchised classes could exercise a final veto on actions of councils or departments prejudicial to their interests. The detailed discussion of these suggestions would carry us too far, and we must content outselves with recording the opinion that it is time for the discussion to be taken up in earnest. The essential fact in the situation is that democracy cannot wait indefinitely for a literate population. Things have been carried too far for that, and some means must be found by which the different sections can express themselves within the Constitution, and can be assured that their views receive adequate consideration. We do not complain of the discussion of powers and methods of procedure which holds the field in Simla just now: what we urge is that it should be supplemented by investigations of more fundamental importance. The Constitutional edifice, imperfect as it is, has but little to fear from the gas-attacks now being directed against it by disappointed politicians. The real danger lies rather in the possibility of some subterranean convulsion, which, by demolishing the superstructure, may expose too late the inadequacy of its foundations.

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THE PRESS IN EGYPT.

By LADY DRUMMOND HAY.

Ninety-eight per cent. of the population illiterate . . . yet the influence of the Press all along has played a rôle of paramount importance in the history of the Egyptian Nationalist movement, and this in spite of the very strict censorship exercised from 1914 to 1922, or rather since 1909, when the law of 1881 for the control of the Press was vigorously enforced at the instigation of Sir Eldon Gorst, after being allowed to lapse under Lord Cromer, who considered such liberty as a safety valve for public opinion.

In spite of the multiplicity of its organs and the variety of languages in which they are published, the circulation of the most widely read newspaper does not exceed 40,000 copies—this, of course, owing to the general illiteracy still prevailing in Egypt. It would be a mistake, however, to imagine that the masses are thereby debarred from taking part in public affairs; it is no uncommon sight to see a group of some fifteen or twenty persons listening intently to one of their number reading aloud from a newspaper, the matter of which serves subsequently as food for thought and argument for many a long day, receiving deeper and more concentrated attention than in circles where the morning and evening newspapers are discarded after hasty perusal. Read by a member of the community respected for his superior knowledge, the printed words take on a special significance, and fall from his lips as inspired truth. In these circumstances the supreme importance of the Press as a medium for propaganda is self-evident.

About ninety periodicals are published regularly in Egypt, of which about fifty-seven are in Arabic, twelve in French, four in English, four in Italian, eight in Greek, three in Armenian, one in Maltese, and one in Hebrew. Of these, the most important are the daily newspapers, the Arabic publications naturally occupying the first place on account of their appeal to a larger public, with consequently a wider circulation, as well as greater authenticity and abundance of news. Before the War the circulation of an Arabic newspaper rarely exceeded 20,000 copies, but now 40,000 is the figure reached by the most popular daily.

Amongst the European papers the average is 3,000, with a maximum of 6,000 copies. In nearly every case they depend upon and garner news from the columns of their Arabic contemporaries, which are read, not only in Egypt, but throughout Islam.

Telegraphic news is supplied by one of four services—Reuter, Havas, Italo-Oriental, and Hellénique, *Al-Ahram* being the only paper possessing a special telegraph service of its own.

At the present moment Zaghloul Pasha is vigorously supported by practically all the Arabic papers of importance, regardless of their previous leanings or formerly expressed views. The principal are *Al-Ahram*, consistently supporting the Nationalist movement; *Al-Mokattam*, until 1914 Anglophil and hostile to the Nationalist movement, but now running with the majority; *Al-Balagh*, inspired by the Wafd and policy of Zaghloul Pasha; *Wadinnil*, resolutely but moderately Zaghloulist; *Al-Mahroussa*, having changed its politics as often as its editors, is now also Zaghloulist; and *Al-Akhbar*, though systematically opposing all and every Government, favours the Egyptian Nationalist movement.

The great exception is *Al-Siassa*, the organ of the Liberal-Constitutional Party, and violently anti-Zaghloulist.

The European periodicals are of comparatively little political importance, generally confining themselves to expressing the ideas, and studying the needs of their particular colonies. *La Liberté*, supporting the Wafd and Zaghloul Pasha, and *La Bourse Egyptienne*, Anglophil and generally opposing the Nationalist movement, alone have any noteworthy political "colour."

Of the two English dailies, the *Egyptian Gazette* displays Imperialistic tendencies, while the *Egyptian Mail* more generally reflects local British opinions.

But, whatever their party politics or private differences, the organs of the Egyptian Press are unanimous in their expressions of loyalty to and confidence in King Fuad, whose popularity has remained unshaken throughout the most serious and acute crises.

IN SCUTARI.

By E. C. DAVIES.

The road to the coast winds and twists between the mountain crests, past grey rocks of curious formation and groups of gnarled and crooked pines that give an oddly Japanese appearance to this part of the ancient Sanjak of Novi-Bazar; and in the far distance, gleaming like the sun itself out of the greyness lies the lake of Scutari, with the strange old town at its southern end, as much a part of the Orient as Colombo or Port Said.

The peasants of this part of the borderland between Albania and Montenegro are hardworking; the little pockets of earth that seem to outcrop from the rocks are carefully cultivated, and banked up almost in Arab fashion. The houses are picturesque: lacking the grimness of the purely Albanian towns they have an almost Italian look with their painted balconies, but the dampness of the climate detracts from the charm of the buildings, and the rivers are green and full of aquatic plants that hold the watery vapours.

Magnificent mountains sweep right down to the waters of Lake Scutari, and close to the margin willow trees with a myriad roots like a mangrove swamp lead an almost aqueous existence. Behind Scutari the old Venetian fortress bears witness of the stormy past of this curious town, with great Tarabosch mountain looming threateningly up behind.

There is nothing of the West about Scutari; the little shops open to the street, with their silver filagree jewellery, weapons of all kinds, the fruit and meat booths with their square lanterns overhead; the long streets with their great doors, in the vista a high blank wall shutting off the domestic life of the people from the gaze of the curious; the latticed windows of the Mohammedan quarter; the glimpses of inner gardens when for an instant the blankness of the street is broken by the opening of one of the entrances; the strange medley of costumes; the wandering coffee-sellers, the tailors sitting cross-legged in their windows—all is of the East.

The national costume of the men is delightful; baggy dark blue knee-breeches sloping off cunningly into tight folds strapped over the ankle, a red-gold-embroidered waistcoat and pale green long-skirted coat. Albanians wear the white breeches and coat worked in black braid, the fez in place of the Bosnian or Montenegrin cap, but the tribesmen of the north and south are not alike in costume any more than in character. For the women a long pale blue coat, reaching down to the ankles, is the invariable dress of ceremony, full baggy trousers of shining black stuff, which have tight-fitting gold-embroidered straps round the ankles, so

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that the feet must be placed wide apart in walking, so stiff is the tube-like anklet. A graceful long white lace veil and a necklace of a hundred gold coins complete a costume which is invariably worn with grace and natural dignity by the better-class women.

The Scutari bazaar is like an Arabian Nights' Dream, for peasants in a score of varying costumes come down from the mountains with rugs and white woven stuffs, honey and cheese, poultry and pigs, sitting on the ground beside their wares in the market-place in the blazing sun while the rest of North Albania comes to bargain with them. Veiled women—the Christian portion of the population with a cotton shawl held tightly across the mouth, almost as fearful of observation by the stranger as the Moslem women, who veil their faces with thick black chiffon folds—come to chaffer in the bazaar, but the click of a camera draws an ominous frown on the faces of the people. The little shops do a busy trade in brightly striped gauzes and embroidered zouaves, heavy leather belts adorned with great buckles of embossed silver, red and yellow pottery.

The crowd is a motley one: here a Montenegrin in flat cap and long green coat, there an Albanian in black and white, or a Mirdite woman, one of the mountain tribe of that name, of long pedigree and immense pride, her short-cropped hair dyed black, her embroidered zouave worn over a coarse white chemise, two brilliantly woven aprons back and front over a short white skirt and striped trousers, her stockings knitted in great diagonal patterns. There is a babel of tongues, loudest before the barber's shop, where customers waiting for their turn sip coffee brought to them on copper trays, a tiny fire on each tray to keep the coffee hot. But Moslem looks askance at Christian, and the Albanian has no love for either Montenegrin or Serb, and the future of Scutari is as uncertain as her past has been chequered.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

THE MONTENEGRIN ELECTIONS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I desire to make one remark in reference to your Correspondent's communication from Yugoslavia published in your last issue. He remarks: "MM. Pashitch and Pribitchevitch were in favour of a general election solely under the condition that the mandate for it was entrusted into their hands. What that amounts to everybody knows."

If this is true of Belgrade itself, what is likely to be the truth of the so-called free elections that were held in Montenegro that sealed the fate of that unfortunate country—a solution gladly accepted by all the Powers; by France because of her financial interest in the new State, and by England because she did not want to offend France.

Does not this statement justify the friends of Montenegro who have always said that the elections in that country, by which the Serbians made out that Montenegro was eager to be engulfed, were from beginning to end bogus, and in no way representing the will of the people?—I am, etc.,

ALEX DEVINE.

Northwood Park, Winchester, August 14.

THE DEPARTURE OF M. STANCIOFF.

Last Sunday afternoon M. Stancioff, who has just vacated the post of Bulgarian Minister to the Court of St. James, and has retired from the Bulgarian Diplomatic Service, left London for Varna, accompanied by Mme. Stancioff and Mdlle. Stancioff. Among those present at Victoria Station were the Italian Ambassador and Marchesa della Torretta, the Belgian Ambassador, the Hungarian Minister and Countess Szapary, Lady Muir and Mme. Felix Guépin (*nées* Stancioff), M. Ivan Stancioff, the Italian Counsellor and Donna Elena Preziosi, the Italian Military Attaché and Mme. Riggi, the Belgian Military Attaché and Mme. Maton, M. Felix Guépin, and many Russian friends, including Mme. Wolkoff, Baron Schilling, Princess Galitzine, and Mlle. Wolkoff. The Minister, who was deeply affected, expressed his regret at leaving London, and his hope of returning next winter, and thanked his British friends for their kindness to him and to his family during his stay in London.

END OF THE WAR WITH TURKEY.

An Order in Council published in the *London Gazette* of August 12 provides that August 6, 1924, shall be treated as the date of the termination of the war between Great Britain and Turkey.

August 31, 1921, by a previous Order, is the official date of the termination of the war, excepting in regard to Turkey.

The Government of Malta, having been defeated on the second reading of the Ministerial Salaries Bill, has settled the crisis by the allocation of two seats to the National Democrats.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Conference.

Judging by the case of the London Conference it would seem that fortune smiles on negotiations when the limelight is absent and there is as a whole no universal interest in the proceedings. Certain it is that of all the conferences since the Armistice there has been none that has attracted so little attention, not that the vital importance of a settlement that really is a settlement is unappreciated; on the contrary, there has been a full realisation of the significance of the Conference, that it, in fact, stood between us and the continuance of impossible conditions in Europe, the effect of which in this country would probably be the extension of unemployment. But when so many conferences have come and gone, each in turn heralded with such high hopes, and each doomed to yield small results, it is not surprising that expectations regarding the late Conference should have been restrained. Happily, as in the books of the dull Victorian era, this time there was a happy ending, which, if it does not bring us within sight of the golden valleys hidden by the mountain peaks that we were promised in one of those pungent similes born in the turmoil of war, at any rate promises an early end of conditions which have hopelessly handicapped British trade and commerce.

The Immediate Outlook.

The success of the Conference, eminently satisfactory as it is, unfortunately does not mean that a solution of all the problems that have been vexing a war-wearied Europe lies before us. Far from it. But it represents an enormous step forward that an agreement should have been arrived at over the question of reparations, which of all the problems with which we have been confronted is from some points of view easily the worst. One can only wonder that the Allies did not years ago agree on the application of some such scheme as that contained in the Dawes Report which constitutes the basis of the present agreement. It is now nearly six years since the Armistice, be it remembered, and each year that has passed has made the Reparations question less easy to solve. One can only hope now that the Dawes scheme will work as readily as it promises to do, and that this legacy of the War will cause no further trouble. Whatever the issue in this respect, however, the end of the Conference has come leaving us with the satisfactory knowledge that there are no longer differences between the Allies, and that the United States will henceforward be unofficially represented in the working out of the economic salvation of Europe.

Prospects for British Trade.

So much for the broader aspects of the Conference. For this country the agreement has its own special significance. If with the exception of the brief "boom" British commerce has since 1918 remained at a relatively low ebb, it has been largely because of the absence of a European settlement. With the promise of the early removal of that obstruction to trade there should be a general commercial revival in Europe (which may be more rapid than is anticipated if, as is believed in some quarters, the recovery of Europe may be a comparatively speedy process), the influence of which should be felt throughout the world. In this revival British trade is bound correspondingly to benefit. There is not a market abroad to-day that is not starved for goods and that is not waiting for the propitious moment to buy. In the ill-timed "boom" to which I have just referred, many markets, especially in the Near East, were speedily overstocked with very detrimental effects to some exporters when the inevitable slump came. Since that time buying has been largely on a hand-to-mouth principle, but if the fulfilment of the settlement is in accordance with its promise, we are very near the replacement of that state of things by buying on the pre-War scale. Some observers even go so far as to expect a "boom" which will be long-lived and will have no disastrous after-effects. Without going so far as to endorse that view, I am fully of the opinion that once it is seen how things are going to work out, there will be a great commercial expansion.

The Question of German Competition.

The one fly in the ointment as far as this country is concerned is the ever-present spectre of prospective German competition. Unfortunately, we cannot have it both ways. Under present conditions Germany is not in a position seriously to threaten British trade except in certain markets, but, on the other hand, the situation in Europe has so affected trade that it is quite impossible in existing circumstances to develop commerce on a sufficient scale to solve the unemployment problem. What will be the ultimate outcome with Germany again a competitor in the world's markets must be doubtful, and it is this uncertain issue that causes many to doubt the advisability of assisting in raising a loan to set our chief rival on her feet again. It is, indeed, a strange option which lies before us, and yet there is in reality no choice, for it is only with a Europe reconstructed that there can be any hope for the expansion of British commerce, and that pre-supposes a restored Germany. In the immediate revival of trade that will follow a settlement in Europe, we are not likely to suffer, if the indications go for anything, for there should be trade for all—for a time—but very

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shortly it is easy to foresee the growth of the cut-throat competition of the pre-War period, in which we shall be at a grave disadvantage because of the labour position in this country. It is not a pleasant outlook, and if I have written gravely upon it, it is because the solution is not easy to see, for it is not as if it were only Germany with which we have to deal. One consequence of the War has been, as we already know to our cost, the development of manufacturing activities by countries who were formerly content to take the articles from us that they now make themselves, and there are other handicaps under which British commerce labours abroad on which it is unnecessary for me to dwell here. Whatever be the solution, it would seem obvious that the time is not far distant when it will be essential to give adequate protection to the home market, while at the same time doing everything possible to develop trade within the Empire and also with those markets, such as the Near East, which were very largely neglected by us before the War.

The Position at Smyrna.

A most encouraging report has reached me from a Smyrna correspondent regarding the general position in that region. In view of what has happened there, it would not have been surprising if recovery had proved to be a comparatively long process, and some sidelights that have been forthcoming of Turkish methods in other directions have certainly not conduced to any overwhelming confidence in their administration. In the Smyrna region, however, it appears that real progress has been made in reconstruction, and during the past year the correspondent states that there has been a very marked improvement. "Apart from the agricultural development that is taking place," says the writer, "to which the efforts of the Government have largely contributed, and which augurs well for an eventual return to the prosperous conditions of 1914 and previous years, the authorities are closely co-operating with the Chamber of Commerce and the commercial community, carefully examining into all grievances, extending facilities for the movement and shipment of merchandise, and removing many obstacles which trade had to contend with in the past season or two. The various Government departments are easily accessible to the public, and business is carried through with greater despatch. To facilitate communications a telephone exchange has been temporarily installed in the offices of the Ottoman Chamber of Commerce. Apart from the Grain Exchange, premises have been leased by the fruit trade, and operations, hitherto carried on in the streets and corners, are now concentrated in this Exchange, where sellers and buyers meet and business can be conducted far more suitably and expeditiously. Confidence in the future is reviving, and it is admitted that it is only a matter of time for Smyrna to regain the important position it formerly occupied in the trade movement of Turkey." That is quite the mose hopeful report that has come from Turkey for a long time, and if Smyrna be taken as an index of the country as a whole, it would seem obvious that before long the Turkish market will again be an important factor in British trade.

The Egyptian Season.

Very favourable reports have so far been forthcoming as to the prospects of the coming Egyptian season, which is particularly satisfactory when it is borne in mind that Egypt has to meet increased competition in these days from Morocco and other more accessible regions which are offering increasing attractions to the tourist community. It appears, indeed, that those who have already signified their intention of visiting Egypt this winter show an increase on the total of last season's tourists, so that, provided conditions are favourable, it is probable that Egypt has a record season before her. And that, of course, will have its due effect on Egyptian market conditions.

The Position in India.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a survey of the agricultural position in India. The monsoon has been unusually late this year, and uneven in its incidence, and the situation in some parts of India has given rise to anxiety. The latest reports are that the position has improved in some regions where it was unsatisfactory, notably in Bombay Presidency, and, broadly speaking, the economic prospects are now regarded as fair.

COMMENTATOR.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-97 $\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	243-244
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	364-368
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	24.02-24.04
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 $\frac{9}{16}$-1.5 $\frac{7}{32}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	89
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	985-1000
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	340-350,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 $\frac{9}{16}$-1.5 $\frac{7}{32}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	843-853
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.52¼-4.52½
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	82.35
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	151½-151¾
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	100⅞-101
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	615-630
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	320-325,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	—	23.60-23.75

ADEN COFFEE TRADE IN 1923-24.

Imports and exports of coffee in the Aden district increased considerably both in quantity and value during the year ended March 31, 1924, owing to the increased demand for coffee from all parts of the world. The imports alone amounted to 15,785,872 lb., which is a large increase over imports during the previous year and exceeds the average import for the pre-war, war, and post-war periods. The most interesting points in the coffee import trade in Aden in 1923-24 (says an American Consular report) were the increased quantity of Arabian Mocha coffee coming from Red Sea ports and from the interior of Arabia, and the increase in the coffee of Abyssinian origin. Imports of Mombasa coffee from the Zanzibar and Pemba districts also increased during the year ended March, 1924; this, however, is usual during periods of activity in the coffee business. Owing to diminished stocks of Mocha during the last three months of 1923 and the unusual general demand, Abyssinian coffee rose in price until it practically equalled the price of Mocha.

Exports of coffee during 1923-24 amounted to 15,187,872 lb., which is higher than the average export for the war and post-war periods, but is lower than the pre-war average. The export trade showed a decrease in the amounts shipped to Egypt and France, and a marked increase in the shipments to the United States and to the Scandinavian countries. Shipments of coffee from Aden to the United States for the year ended March, 1924, amounted to 4,474,182 lb., compared with 2,774,658 lb. in the period ended March, 1923. Of the 1923-24 exports to the United States, 2,663,032 lb. were Mocha coffee and 1,811,150 lb. were Abyssinian and Harrar coffee.

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BANKING IN YUGOSLAVIA.

An Important Amalgamation.

(By Our Liubliana Correspondent.)

A recent development in the banking world of Yugoslavia bids fair to have a far-reaching effect on the country's economic life. On May 11 the Jadransko-Podunavska (Adriatic-Danubian) Bank was constituted by the amalgamation of the Adriatic Bank (Jadranska Banka) with the Podunska Trgovsko d.d. (Danube Commercial Co.). The fusion of these two banks means a concentration of the forces of Yugoslav native capital, which, under present conditions, and especially for this country, is considered unusually large, as M. Lj. Kosier points out in a paper on the subject published by Bankarstvo, Zagreb.

By the size of its share capital (80,000,000 dinars) the Jadransko-Podunavska Bank is second to the Hrvatska Eskomptna Banka only among Yugoslav banks, while, judged by available assets, it ranks third to the Hrvatska Eskomptna Bank and the Prva Hrvabska Stedionica. The Jadransko-Podunavska Banka represents to-day the strongest grouping of native Yugoslav capital, while, as shown by the affiliated Frank Sakser State Bank in New York City and the Banco Jugoslavo de Chile, it represents the economic interests of Yugoslavs outside the country.

The events which led up to the formation of the Jadransko-Podunavska Bank may be briefly traced. The Adriatic Bank was founded in 1905 with its head office in Trieste and a share capital of 8,000.000 Austrian crowns, and from its foundation its progress was rapid, but the Great War went far to destroy what had been built up in times of peace. On account of the close proximity of Trieste to the Italian front, the bank was compelled to move its head office in part to its branch office in Vienna.

The cessation of hostilities found the bank in a very difficult position. The head office in Trieste and the branch office in Abbayia were then in Italian territory, the Vienna branch office was in German-Austria, and the greater number of the branch offices were within Yugoslav borders. June 29, 1921, saw the foundation in Belgrade of the independent Yugoslav Adriatic Bank, Ltd., while the Trieste office was Italianised under the name of the Banca Adriatica, the Adriatic Bank, Belgrade, stipulating for one-third of the share capital —i.e., 5,000,000 lira. After the fall of Austria the Vienna branch, too, found itself in a very unfortunate position, and the Adriatic Bank of Belgrade and the Banca Adriatica of Trieste came to an agreement for the conversion of the Vienna branch into an independent bank, and, with the approval of the Austrian Government, the Adriatische Bank A.G. was duly founded on October 10, 1922.

Thus the purely native Yugoslav Jadranska Banka (the Adriatic Bank) in Belgrade became completely independent. Owing to a steady improvement of business interests, it soon became necessary to increase the share capital. In 1921 there were two new issues of shares whereby the share capital of seven and a-half million dinars was increased to thirty millions, and in 1922 the share capital was increased from thirty millions to sixty million dinars.

The year 1920 was a critical one in the history of the Adriatic Bank, for it had to face political opposition, and the result of a newspaper campaign was that confidence in the bank was to some extent undermined, with the natural consequence that there was an increasingly frequent demand for the withdrawal of deposits. Fortunately, the bank was in a specially favourable position, owing to its exceptional ability to command ready money, and it was able to meet all the demands made upon it without incurring obligations abroad, and without outside help. The management, however, finally came to the conclusion that a reconstruction with the help of native capital was desirable, and thus was brought about the amalgamation with the Podunavsko Trgovasko Drustro (Danube Commercial Company).

The Danube Commercial Company was founded in Belgrade on October 6, 1911, and, though styled a trading company, was in reality a banking concern. From the first the company was well received on the Belgrade money market, and soon enjoyed the reputation of being a sound, flourishing, and strictly national business. During the war the company's movable property and books were carried off by the Bulgars from Nish, and, not even with the signing of peace did the company succeed in recovering them, thus necessitating an entirely fresh start. The Danube Commercial Company was the first Serbian bank to commence operating on the Belgrade markets after the war, turning its attention to import and export trade first of all, which was only natural during the years of reconstruction, as Serbia had been completely laid waste by the war.

Up to the beginning of 1922 the company dealt mainly in commerce, but altered circumstances and the instability of the import duties caused them to devote their energies to banking operations. The Belgrade office was especially prosperous, the entire working capital being invested in the Belgrade market. At the company's seventh general meeting on May 11, 1924, the board of directors proposed amalgamation with the Jadranska Banka Belgrade, a proposal which was adopted, and with the amalgamation the company's individual history was brought to a close.

The Leipzig Autumn Fair will be held from August 31 to September 6.

The quantity of gold extracted from the mines in India during May amounted to 37,551 oz., valued at Rs. 23,03,071.

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ROUMANIAN FINANCES.

A new Roumanian law has been promulgated authorising the opening of an extraordinary credit at the Ministry of Finance for the sum of 1,516,000,000 lei. This sum is stated to be the equivalent of 7,580,000 dollars, the amount which the Syndicate of Roumanian Refiners is to advance to the Roumanian Government up to May 14, 1925.

The law authorises the Ministry of Finance to make an agreement with the Banca Nationala upon the basis of which the Banca Nationala is to put the whole sum which the State has to receive from this sale at the disposal of the Ministry of Finance gradually according to necessity. This money, the law goes on to say, is to be used by the Ministry of Finance, working in accord with the Banca Nationala for the purpose of covering the floating debts remaining from previous fiscal periods.

The law thus makes provision for gradually paying off 1,516,000,000 lei of the present floating debts of the Government; but even so it will be, according to popular estimates, something less than half of the Government's total floating debts. These estimates variously fix the sum thus due between 3,500 and 4,000 million lei, being as to the greater part amounts due to contractors and industrialists in Roumania who have furnished supplies to the various departments of the Roumanian Government, such as the railroads.

The advance thus made to the Government by the Banca Nationala of 1,516,000,000 lei will not, it is expected, increase the amount of currency in circulation to any appreciable extent, as it will be used in great measure for the cancellation of loans previously made by the banks to firms and others to whom payments are due from the Government.

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THE AGRICULTURAL POSITION IN INDIA.

The following is a summary of the agricultural situation in India at the end of July. The monsoon was generally late except in Madras, Eastern and Northern Bengal, and parts of Burma and Bombay, where subsequent breaks are causing anxiety. Rainfall was unevenly distributed, being heavy and, on the whole, above the average in Madras, but defective in Circars and Deccan, moderate to heavy in Northern Bengal, parts of United Provinces, and Bihar and Orissa, and sufficient in the Punjab, Lower Burma, Assam and Central India. Excessive rain in Western Ghats, in Madras, caused unprecedented floods resulting in serious damage to houses, roads, bridges, and crops. Damage to property was great, but crops, being young, may revive with the cessation of the rains, except where washed away. Some damage was caused to crops by the excessive rain and floods in parts of Bengal, United Provinces, and Assam. More rain is wanted in Western Bengal, parts of the United Provinces, Central Provinces, Rajputana, North-West Frontier Province, and dry zones of Upper Burma, where the situation is serious and requires watching. Owing to the drought at sowing time and continuous heavy rain in South-Eastern Bengal, the area under jute has slightly decreased as compared with last year. Prices of jute, rice, and other food grain are higher than last year, except in parts of Bombay, Central Provinces, Baluchistan, Rajputana, and Central India, where they are normal. Food-grain is sufficient except in parts of Burma. The condition of cattle is generally good except in Rajputana. The fodder supply is insufficient in parts of Rajputana and famine-affected districts of Madras, where the situation is being relieved by importation by rail at concession rates and grant of other concessions. General economic conditions and prospects are fair except in parts of Madras and the dry zones of Upper Burma.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Anchor Line.

The report of the Anchor Line (Henderson Bros., Ltd.) for the year ended April 30, 1924, states that the sailings on the various services operated by the company have been well maintained. The financial results, however, have been disappointing, whilst the present outlook is not encouraging. It is not anticipated that there will be any general betterment in trade in the immediate future. The volume of business in the Indian trade, though not unsatisfactory for the first six months of the year under review, showed considerable diminution latterly, and freight rates also developed pronounced weakness. The profits for the year, after providing for depreciation and other contingencies, amounted to £21,261, which, with the balance brought forward, makes a total of £154,389. Out of this there has been paid the dividend on the preference shares, absorbing £13,884. The directors recommend a dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent., free of tax, leaving £128,005 to be carried forward.

The Royal Roumanian Government announces that in carrying out the operation of the sinking fund of its various external loans, drawings of bonds have taken place during the current year. Lists of the numbers of the bonds drawn may be seen at the counting-house of Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co., 145, Leadenhall Street, E.C.3, between the hours of eleven and two o'clock.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit in Good Request.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

Coffee.—A steady tone has prevailed. Costa Rica is unchanged at 140s., East Indian is 10s. up at 130s., Santos is unaltered at 98s., while Harrar has been done at 120s.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in steady demand at the latst rates. West Indian crystallised has been done at 35s. 9d., White Mauritius has come to business at 34s. 6d., while White Java stands at 35s. Futures are quiet. Quotations are:—September, 22s. 4½d.; October, 21s. 6d.; November, 20s. 3d.

Maize.—Prices are slightly harder on the week, though business has been on a restricted scale. La Plata has been done at 39s. 3d., while Bessarabian has realised 38s. August-September sold at 36s. 10½d., September-October at 37s. 9d., October-November at 38s. 4½d., and November-December at 38s. 10½d.

Almonds.—There is little change to report. Future quotations are generally harder.

Currants.—A very firm tendency has been in evidence, and prices have advanced. Cleaned Amalias and Pyrgos have been in special request.

Figs.—The market shows a rising tendency. Quotations for Smyrnas are very firm.

Oilcakes.—The past week has seen a universal decline in prices. Linseed cake is 10s. lower at 280s., coconut cake is also 10s. down at 205s., while cottonseed cake at 167s. 6d. is 2s. 6d. lower.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been firm, Indian being 3d. up at 22s. 6d., while La Plata is unchanged at 20s. 3d. Rapeseed has been steady. Toria is unaltered at 21s. 4½d., while real bold Ferozepore is 3d. lower at 21s. Cottonseed has been quiet. Indian is unchanged at 10s. 10½d., Egyptian black is 1½d. up at 13s., while Sakellaridis, at 12s. 6d., is 10½d. up.

Seed Oils.—Linseed oil has firmed up, closing at 42s., an advance of 1s. Rape oil has been weak with crude at 47s. 6d., a decline of 1s. 6d., and technical refined at 50s. 6d. Cottonseed oil has been steady. Refined common edible is 49s., Bombay crude is 41s. 6d., Egyptian crude is 44s., technical is 46s., while deodorised is 51s.

Barley.—The demand for parcels has been good and prices have advanced. Karachi parcels have sold up to 40s. 6d. for London and outports, and Aug.-Sept. has made up to 40s. 9d. to Hull and 41s. 9d. to Glasgow. Indian advices show an easier tendency, and a part cargo of Karachi for shipment is offered at 41s. Persian for Sept.-Oct. shipment to London sold at 36s. 3d. Morocco afloat to Hull sold at 38s.

Beans.—There has been fair activity. Chinas have fluctuated between £10 15s. and £10 8s. 9d. to Glasgow. In Sicilian there are sellers at £11, and bids of £10 15s. are asked for.

Dari.—Values have risen sharply owing to the small supplies. Morocco would meet with a very good demand if good quality parcels could be offered for prompt shipment.

Fenugreek.—The demand is practically nil. The value of new crop Morocco for shipment would be about £19.

Canary Seed.—Mazagan is quoted at 29s. 6d. c.i.f., but there are no buyers.

Coriander Seed.—The old crop has been sold at 25s., and new crop sellers are asking 26s. 6d.

Beeswax.—The market is stagnant, the nominal value being £6 10s. ex store.

Gum arabic has been done at 85s. to 87s. 6d. ex store. A fall is probable if large shipments are made.

SMYRNA MARKET CONDITIONS.

We have received from Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. the following report on conditions in the Smyrna region, dated July 31:—

In the market report we published last April we referred to the improving conditions of agriculture, the reorganisation of the agricultural banks, and the efforts being made by the Government to foster development in every way possible. We are pleased to say that the sanguine views we then expressed are likely to be justified by results in the approaching autumn.

The country is steadily settling down; farmers are better stocked with cattle, agricultural implements, etc.; labour is more abundant and cheaper than last year; transport is being better organised both on the railways and on the countryside, and, so far as the port of Smyrna is concerned, apart from the scarcity of warehousing accommodation, conditions are always tending to improve.

Weather conditions during the past three months have been very favourable, and the outlook of the ripening crops generally is satisfactory.

Sultanas.—The vineyards are carrying an abundant yield of grapes. The gathering and drying is commencing in the lowland districts. The flow of arrivals is likely to set in a week to ten days earlier than last year, owing to the more advanced stage of maturity of the fruit. Weather remains cool and dry. Estimates of the production vary between 38,000 tons to 45,000 tons.

Supplementing the statistics we gave in our previous report, we have since obtained the gross weight of shipments made to the United Kingdom during the past four seasons taken from the manifests of the various shipping companies engaged in the carrying trade. We reproduce these figures for the purpose of record:—1920-1: London, 4,550 tons; Liverpool, 3,618 tons—total, 8,810 gross tons. 1921-2: London, 8,054; Liverpool, 5,972—total, 15,456. 1922-3: London, 7,179; Liverpool, 2,559—total, 10,325. 1923-4: London, 9,576; Liverpool, 8,975—total, 20,821. As in the case of shipments of figs, given hereafter, 10 per cent. allowance for the tare of packages should be made to arrive at the net weight of fruit exported.

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Figs.—Advices from the Meander Valley are to the effect that, although the weight of the production may not prove quite equal to that of last season, the quality generally will be superior, the fruit being very sound and healthy and of excellent development.

Shipments to the United Kingdom during the past four years have been as follows:—1920-1: London, 5,092 tons: Liverpool, 2,698 tons—total, 8,242 gross tons. 1921-2; London, 4,268; Liverpool, 2,613—total, 7,525. 1922-3: London, 3,701; Liverpool, 801—total, 4,641. 1923-4: London, 6,788; Liverpool, 4,169—total 11,640.

Red Raisins.—The yield in the Vourla district is short. In the Carabournou district it is estimated at slightly over last season.

Cotton.—Weather has been very favourable for the plantations, and the outlook remains the same as reported last April.

Olive Oil.—The trees are in good condition and carrying a heavy weight of olives. Exports of olive oil should be possible on an interesting scale in the coming winter if the mills are put into working order.

Cereals.—Shipments of barley will be limited, but a fair quantity of beans will be available for export. The country has not yet reached the stage of production in excess of home requirements, but the area of cultivation is annually increasing, and it is only a matter of time for cereal exports to become an important factor in the export trade of the country.

PALESTINE CROP PROSPECTS.

The Director of Agriculture and Forests in Palestine, in a report for July, states:—

Final returns of winter crops are not yet available, but preliminary statements reflect considerable reductions on last year's figures from several districts. The total production of the Acre area is about 30 per cent., and that of Galilee approximately 20 per cent., less than in the previous season. Legumes make the poorest showing with a decrease of 35 per cent. in the former district. Samaria, on the other hand, has had, if anything, slightly better winter crops, on the whole, than in 1923. No modification of last month's statement with reference to the southern districts is necessitated by later information.

Durrah is already ripening in the Haifa and Tulkarem District. Both durrah and sesame are very uneven in character. Thus, durrah is good and sesame poor in Acre, Tiberias and Safad areas; in the neighbourhood of Nazareth both crops are poor, but fair to good round Baisan and Nablus, and excellent throughout the Tulkarem sub-district. Similarly, in the south durrah is very good in the Jaffa plain and foot-hills, but only fair in the Gaza plain and in the mountains. Sesame is much below normal in the last-named areas, but fair in the Jaffa plain and foot-hills.

Tobacco.

Picking is in full swing throughout the country. Late plantings have ripened prematurely without reaching full growth. Better methods of curing are in vogue as a result of the efforts and assistance of the travelling instructors. Much interest was displayed by a large assembly at the Nablus Agricultural Show, in model tobacco-frames, baling-presses, etc., exhibited by the Department of Agriculture. Earlier fears of a slump in tobacco-prices seem to have been allayed by further forward buying and greater competition. A million and a half tobacco seedlings were distributed from departmental nurseries in the northern districts to private planters.

Orange-groves are reported to be setting a heavy crop of fruit everywhere. A recent heat-wave was, however, responsible for a shedding of some 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. of fruit at some centres. The almond-harvest is commencing. The yield is estimated to be from 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. below normal. Early grapes are being marketed. The total yield will be slightly below average. Early figs and apples are on the market. The yield is less than normal, as is also that of pomegranates, which have been attacked by fruit fly. A good yield of bananas is reported from Jericho. Olives promise well throughout the country.

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EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The official report on the crops in Egypt in July states:—

Cotton.—Hot winds which prevailed during the second week of the month brought about a certain amount of damage, causing some shedding of bolls and flowers, especially where the water supply was insufficient. Flowering is general, and bolls are forming in early sown fields. There were numerous complaints regarding shortage of water, especially at tails of canals. Such complaints were duly taken into consideration by the Ministries of Agriculture and Public Works, and compensations given in most of the canals where water supply was short of requirements. The cotton-worm attack, especially in the northern districts of Lower Egypt, was more widely spread than in the past few years. The attack was particularly severe in Behera Province. All efforts were made to combat the pest.

Sugar-cane.—Weather continued to be favourable to growth of plants. Hoeing, manuring, and watering were still going on. Very slight attacks of stem-borer were reported from Dakahliya, Menufiya, and Beni-Suef provinces.

Rice (Séfi).—Growth is satisfactory in early sown fields, where ears are appearing. In late-sown fields, weeding and transplanting are in progress. Some crops have suffered from excessive heat and shortage of water.

Millet (Séfi).—Growth is satisfactory, and early crops are maturing.

Earthnuts.—Growth is normal and flowering has become general. Podding is progressing in early sown fields.

Maize (Nili).—Irrigation of sharaki lands and preparation of fields are progressing. A few fields have already been sown.

SMYRNA MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. report as follows for the week ending August 9:—

The arrivals of sultanas are estimated as 420 tons, and the sales are put at 400 tons. Closing prices per cwt. c.i.f. London are: Type 12 47s., 13 50s., 14 53s., 15 56s., 16 60s. The market has been unsettled during the past week owing to unfavourable weather conditions. An improvement in the weather should quickly bring about a lower level of values.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Irregular.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended August 7 state :—

Since our report of a week ago the market has been irregular and nervous. The net changes on the week are the following :—Sakellaridis $0.70 down for November, $0.70 down for January; Ashmouni, $0.30 up for August, $1.15 down for October, $1.15 down for December, $1.15 down for February. Prices more or less followed the fluctuations of New York during the early part of the week, but to-day they have suffered a decline which has narrowed the difference with American. The sole reason of to-day's weakness has been the report of rain in Texas, and the quick response of our markets to reports which tend to indicate an improvement in American crop conditions shows clearly the extent of the speculative interest in this market. The volume of business has been about the same as during last week, but purchases by commercial houses have been rather larger. The week's receipts amount to 445 krs., against exports 45,410 krs.; the stock stands at 339,127 krs.

Spot.—Total sales during the week amount to about 2,500 bales, of which we estimate 2,100 bales Sakellaridis and 400 bales Uppers.

Sakellaridis.—Some interest has been shown during the past week in the higher grades, and one or two lots of Good and Good to Fully Good have changed hands at fairly high premiums; very little of this cotton remains in the stock, and holders will only part with it if they are given a really attractive price. With regard to the medium grades the demand has somewhat slackened, and the price of spot as compared with contracts is, if anything, slightly easier. A small business has been done in low cotton at fairly cheap prices, holders being anxious to dispose of their stocks.

Uppers.—The rather meagre demand for this variety has been confined to Fully Good Fair and below; the price of spot as compared with contracts is rather dearer for these grades.

Crop 1924.—The crop is maturing well, and few complaints are heard. Damp and excessive heat have caused some shedding. Pink boll worm attack does not up to the present show any great increase, but it is, of course, much too early to say what effect the ravages of this pest are likely to have on the growing crop. Temperature has been somewhat irregular and slightly lower than normal.

The report of the Ministry of Agriculture for the month of July reads :—Lower Egypt : Condition 96; Middle Egypt, 97; Upper Egypt, 103; average whole Egypt, 97. Lower Egypt : Forecast yield, 3.38 krs. per feddan; Middle Egypt, 3.76 krs.; Upper Egypt, 5.04 krs.; average whole Egypt, 3.53 krs. per feddan.

Temperature was very high. Hot winds which prevailed during the second week of the month brought about a certain amount of damage, having caused some shedding of bolls and flowers, especially where the water supply was insufficient. Flowering is general, and bolls are forming in early sown fields. There were numerous complaints regarding shortage of water, especially at tails of canals. Such complaints were duly taken into consideration by the Ministries of Agriculture and Public Works, and compensations given in most of the canals where water supply was short of requirements. The cotton-worm attack, especially in the northern districts of Lower Egypt, was more widely spread than in the past few years. The attack was particularly severe in Behera Province. All efforts were made to combat the pest.

The irrigation report of the Ministry of Public Works, June 21 to July 20, reads :—

Lower Egypt.—Difficulties were experienced in the distribution of water throughout the month in the whole Delta owing to the relatively large cotton areas and authorised rice zones, also to the large unauthorised areas which were put under rice outside these zones. The impression is that no damage has been caused to the crops owing to adequate measures taken during the distribution of water and to the compensations given where irrigation could not be completed during the rotations.

Upper Egypt.—The water supply has improved since last month, but owing to the rush of cultivators to water sharaqui lands and séfi crops—which occupy a larger area than last year—certain difficulties were experienced in carrying water to the tails of canals.

The report of the Alexandria General Produce Association for the month of July reads :—

Lower Egypt : The temperature during the month of July has been favourable to the plants. In some districts a few cool and misty mornings were reported which have had a slight effect on the flowers. The plants are stronger and more developed than at this time last year. Flowering is more abundant and from 15 to 20 days earlier than last year. The bolls are also more numerous. Generally speaking, leaf worm has only caused slight damage. Pink worm has been found everywhere; the number of bolls attacked varies from 5 per cent. to 25 per cent., according to the district. Water for irrigation has been barely sufficient.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—The temperature has been favourable. In the districts south of Minieh some days of damp and heat caused some young bolls to fall. The appearance of the plants is satisfactory. Flowering is general and earlier than last year. Pink worm has been found in some districts, but the number of bolls attacked is insignificant. Water for irrigation has been barely sufficient.

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LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Position Practically Unchanged.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date August 13 :—

Egyptian Spot.—There is little change to report on the spot situation since last week. The scarcity of spinnable cotton here is attracting a certain amount of cotton from various sources. Egypt and the Continent have supplied a small quantity, and even spinners have disposed of parcels here and there when the prices suited. The constant fluctuations in futures have proved detrimental to business, both here and in Manchester, and only those spinners who have allowed their stocks to run to zero have entered the market. On the whole, the inquiry has been smaller than during the past few weeks, but has run on much the same lines. Sakel at from 300 to 400 points on August has been in request, and the appearance on the market of a few hundred bales of docket cotton has proved rather a boon to seekers after this quality. Holders of the so-called extra fine cotton are finding it impossible to obtain the somewhat fantastic prices which they have been asking, and the official quotation for this style of cotton has been reduced 30 points on the week.

Good fair to strict good fair Sakel of fair staple has changed hands in small quantities at about 100 points on the current month, and buyers generally have asked for more. The "off" cotton continues to attract a little more attention, but purchases have been of only a very retail character so far. Spinners are fighting hard to bridge over the gap that still remains before the early shipments can arrive from Egypt. In uppers, the basis has continued to ease, and only a small hand-to-hand business exists. The better qualities are non-existent, but rather more of the lower grades has recently come into sight. The large inquiry for Sudan Sakel, to which we have recently drawn attention, continues, and a fairly good business has resulted at prices ranging from 25.50d. to 26.50d. Tokar Sakel has only attracted buyers when offered at very cheap rates. Other growths have been neglected.

C.i.f. business has been quiet. The crop accounts recently received from Egypt continue to speak highly of the prospects of this year's yield, but there has also been a tendency to emphasise, more than has hitherto been the case, the damage done by various insect pests, and a shortage of water in certain districts has been hinted at. The present month, which is the most vital one of the year, generally decides the fate of the crop. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 8th inst. were returned as 4,582 bales (including Sudan). Estimated sales 1,300 Egypt and 1,050 Sudan. Quotations of upper and brown are reduced 50 points; those of Sakellaridis are advanced 25 points for fair, 60 points for good fair to fine, but extra fine has been exceptionally reduced 30 points on the week. F.G.F. Sakellaridis to-day, 26.35d.

Egyptian Futures.—Trading in this department has been of a quieter and somewhat less exciting character than the previous week; fluctuations also have been on a narrower scale, but the tone throughout has been surprisingly steady, and at times a noticeable scarcity of contracts has been apparent. We attribute this latter feature to the strength shown by the current position, owing to the lack of tenderable cotton in stock here at the moment, and also in greater measure to the absence of new crop hedging. In recent weeks we have followed the movements in the American market fairly closely, but during the past few days we have acted in a more independent fashion, with the result that a marked widening in the two markets has taken place. Rumours of damage to the Sakel crop through heat and lack of water have been in circulation, and no doubt these have neutralised to a great extent the reactionary tendency in the American market. At the same time we must state that so far we have not been able to get confirmation of the above-mentioned adverse reports from authoritative sources.

The Alexandria market has shown considerable strength throughout the week, and it would appear as if a fairly large speculative "Bull" account in new crop options is being built up there. So far, those who have bought have had the encouragement of rising markets, but with more promising American crop advices to hand, and a weakening in that market, it is not impossible that freer new crop hedging will be induced from now onwards. Local trade reports do not reveal any pronounced activity, and spinners continue to cut down their commitments to the lowest possible margin. New crop discounts are still the bar to any decided improvement in the yarn offtake, but there seems little doubt that a good business is awaiting a more reasonable and settled level of values. This afternoon, prices have reacted sharply in sympathy with a pronounced decline in values in the American markets on better Texas prospects. Whilst we are rather of the opinion that further recessions will be witnessed, operations on the "Bear" side should be of a conservative character, as, owing to the small carry-over, the market is particularly apprehensive of any detrimental crop rumours, and we are just entering the period when the plant is most vulnerable to climatic and insect damage.

TEXTILES.

If you wish to obtain your Textile goods from England at the lowest possible prices, communicate with K. JEBARA, 25, Princess Street, Manchester. (Established 1887.)

SALT PRODUCTION IN GREECE.

Salt production in Greece in 1923 amounted to 70,000 tons, compared with 67,000 tons in 1922 and 29,717 tons in 1914. This increased production within recent years is due to constant improvement in methods of production and to the installation of modern appliances (says an American Consular report). On account of extensive improvements in the salt mines of Macedonia and Lesbos during the past year, it is estimated that the production in 1924 will reach about 95,000 tons. Local consumption is approximately 60,000 tons. The prospects for export are good, as the Balkan States afford a ready market.

AIRCRAFT FOR ROUMANIA.

The Crown Prince of Roumania, who is the head of the Air Department of his country, flew to Croydon last week from Holland, where he has been inspecting the Fokker works, with a view to placing orders for the Roumanian Government. The flight to England occupied four hours, instead of the usual two and a-half hours, owing to the strong wind. Recently the Roumanian Government has placed orders for over 500 aeroplanes in England and France.

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Stock and Share Markets.

IMPROVED TONE GENERALLY.

Activity in Industrials.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

The satisfactory conclusion of the London Conference has had a good effect on the markets as a whole, which now make a very firm showing. The issue had, however, been largely discounted as regards prices as a result of the favourable view taken of the outlook in the last week or so, and while the termination of the Conference has certainly given an upward trend to prices, there has been no suggestion of an advance such as would undoubtedly have been the case had the issue been in doubt to the end. To say that there is general relief on the Stock Exchange at the outcome is to put it very mildly. The European impasse has been the chief barrier to trade expansion, and, of course, to the recovery of prices that would follow the development of trade. Time after time a settlement has seemed to be within reach, only for disappointment to come in the end. Now at long last there is a real settlement which opens out possibilities and brings appreciably nearer the return of normal conditions. It is small wonder that profound satisfaction should be felt.

The Outlook.

No one, of course, looks for miracles to follow the conclusion of the Conference. It is realised that at first, at any rate, improvement must be slow, though it is possible that greater progress will be made than is generally looked for. But whether that be the case or not, a totally different tone will henceforward pervade commercial activities. The general atmosphere, in short, will be one of optimism, borne of the knowledge that the affairs of a war-troubled world are at last definitely on the mend, and so we can now look to a period of gradually advancing prices in the majority of the markets, and more especially in such markets as Industrials and Rubber, which have suffered owing to the lack of demand. It would not be surprising, indeed, if the two groups I have specified were during the next few years two of the brightest features on the Exchange.

New Issues.

The sequel to the Conference that may be looked for in the near future is a considerable development in the number of new issues. There has not been much doing in this direction lately, but there are many new issues on the tapis, including some for the Near East, and it will not be long now before they begin to make their appearance.

Gilt-Edged Harder.

A very firm tone has ruled in gilt-edged descriptions, and where price changes have taken place they have in nearly all cases been in the upward direction. As in the previous week, however, business has continued to be on a relatively small scale. Consols at 57¼ show a gain of ⅛, the Conversion Loan, which has again been a particularly firm feature, is ½ up at 78¼, War Loan Fives at 101½ are ¼ up, while Fundings, which have also made a very good showing, are ⅝ up at 89½. Indian Loans closed yesterday on rather a dull note, but even so are about the same as last week. The Three per Cents. are unchanged at 56½, the Three and a-Half per Cents. are ¼ up at 66⅝, the Four and a-Half per Cents. at 86½ are the same as before, the Five and a-Half per Cents. at 101 show a gain of ⅛, while the Seven per Cents. are ½ down at 113.

Foreign Stocks Steady.

The foreign market showed no notable change following the conclusion of the Conference. Here, too, business has been on a small scale, and price changes have not been of any great importance. French stocks have continued to make a very good showing, the Five per Cents. being 25¾ x.d., while the Four per Cents. at 20¾ are ¾ up. German bonds have been a prominent feature, but the tone was rather uncertain yesterday, early gains being subsequently followed by declines. The Three per Cents at 24s. are 1s. up on the week, the Three and a-Half per Cents. are 9d. lower at 22s. 3d. after being up to 24s., while the Four per Cents. are 6d. up at 24s. I have nothing to add to what I said last week with regard to these bonds. The future course of their prices is at the moment a matter of extreme doubt. Belgian Three per Cents. are unchanged at 70, while Italian Rentes are unaltered at 20½. Russian bonds have been neglected. The Four per Cents. are 7, the Four and a-Half per Cents. are 6½, while the Five per Cents. are 8. Turkish Unified has advanced a fraction to 16. Greek stocks have been notably firm, with Monopolies 3 up at 46½.

Industrials Firmer.

A much better tone has ruled in the Industrial group. This market, in fact, has responded more noticeably to the conclusion of the Conference than any other. For months business has been on a small scale, but there has been quite a development of buying, and yesterday the market displayed considerable activity.

The upward movement of prices has been more or less general. Textiles have been a very firm spot, with Coats 9d. up at 62s. 6d., and Courtaulds unchanged at 53s. Tobaccos have been firm. Bats are 3d. up at 109s., while Imperial Tobaccos are unaltered at 78s. 6d. Iron and Steel descriptions have made a fairly good showing. Vickers are 3d. up at 9s. 9d., Armstrongs are unchanged at 14s. 6d., while Guest Keens are the same as before at 36s. 6d. Motor shares have been notably firm.

Shipping securities have generally made a firm showing. P. and O. Deferred at 289 are 1½ up, Cunards have gained 3d. at 18s., Furness Withys at 31s. 9d. are 9d. lower, while Khedivial Mails are unchanged at 1¾.

Banks Firm.

A very firm tone has ruled in Banking descriptions. Westminsters are 1-16 up at 17½, Lloyds are unchanged at 59s. 3d., Bank of British West Africas are unaltered at 3¾x.d., P. and O. Banks are 10¾, while Imperial of Persias are ⅛ lower at 7⅝.

A rather dull tone has ruled in Egyptian securities. Aboukirs at 17s. 9d. are 6d. lower, Beheras at 10⅞ are ⅜ down, Egyptian Markets have shed 3d. at 24s. 6d., Gharbieh Lands are unchanged at 1¾, New Egyptians are 9d. lower at 26s. 3d., while Union Foncières are unchanged at 2 11-16.

Oils Variable.

A rather uncertain tone has been in evidence in the Oil market. Business has been on a very restricted scale, and, with the exception of a few features, notably Phœnix, the market has made a poor showing. Anglo-Persian ordinary at 2 31-32 are the same as last week, while Burmahs at 5 1-32 are 1-32 lower. In the Roumanian group Phœnix have been a strong spot, and at 22s. 3d. are 9d. up, Steaua Romanas are 8s. 3d., while Hamilton's Concessions are 1s. 6d. Among Egyptians, Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields are 1 1-32, at which they are 1-32 down.

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Shipping Intelligence.

SHIPBUILDING BY VICKERS, LTD.

Launch of New Cargo Steamer.

The launch took place on August 19 at the shipbuilding yard of Vickers, Ltd., at Barrow-in-Furness, of the s.s. Geraldine Mary, a single-screw cargo steamer, which has been built for the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Co. The vessel has been specially designed for the carriage of paper in rolls, and the depth of holds and 'tween decks arranged to give a minimum waste space. The principal dimensions are:—Length between perpendiculars, 422 ft.; breadth moulded, 56 ft.; depth moulded to upper deck, 38 ft. 6 in.; 'tween deck heights, 7 ft. 6 in.; boat deck height, 8 ft.; load draft, 26 ft. 6 in.; deadweight, about 9,000 tons; I.H.P., about 3,000; speed (on service), 11 knots. The vessel is built to Lloyd's highest requirements and to their special survey, also specially strengthened and constructed for encountering ice.

The fore end of the vessel is specially formed for ice-breaking purposes, and the ice bow cut away from about the load water-line to the after end of No. 1 hold. The framing at the forward end is closed to 15 inches apart and the shell increased to 1 inch in thickness, also the bottom forward has been strengthened to resist pounding when the vessel is running in ballast. The shell of the vessel fore and aft from the deep load line to about 15 feet below is increased in thickness $\frac{1}{8}$ inch above classification requirements. The stern frame and rudder are also specially strengthened for coming astern in ice.

The double bottom is arranged for carrying oil fuel under the boiler room under No. 2 hold and in a tank aft of the engine room. Tanks, one forward of boiler room and one aft of engine room, are arranged for water ballast or cargo. Between the engine and boiler rooms, bunkers are built for carrying either coal or oil, and on the second 'tween deck, over the machinery, spaces are arranged for the carriage of coal. Bunker capacity is allowed for about 550 tons of coal, or alternatively about 1,000 tons of oil fuel may be carried, including the double-bottom tanks.

The vessel has three continuous steel decks, and the 'tween decks and holds are arranged for the stowage, with the minimum of waste space, of rolls of paper measuring 2 ft. 9 in. in diameter and 6 ft. long. These rolls are stowed on end and placed in position under the beams. The cargo hatches are arranged as large as possible for the quick handling of the cargo, and are made flush with the deck on 2nd and 3rd decks to provide uninterrupted stowage for the rolls over the hatch covers. The total cubic capacity of cargo spaces amounts to about 492,000 cubic feet for bales.

Particular care has been paid to the question of rapid working of cargo, the winches, derricks, and hatches being on a very liberal scale. Eighteen derricks and winches are provided. The derricks to masts are capable of handling 5 tons, and on derrick posts for 3-ton lifts. The steam winches are supplied by Messrs. Waddington and Co., Barrow-in-Furness. The steam windlass is of Clarke, Chapman's manufacture. The steam steering gear is in a house aft on the upper deck, and is of the Wilson Pirrie type supplied by Messrs. Caldwell and Co., Glasgow.

The officers' quarters are situated in a steel deck-house amidships on upper deck, with the captain's rooms above on the boat deck. Adjacent to the captain's quarters is a combined lounge and smoke room. The saloon, pantries, etc., are in the upper deck-house, where state-rooms for the accommodation of the company's staff are arranged. The vessel has complete electrical installation to light efficiently the whole vessel, also steam heating in all living rooms and saloons.

The propelling machinery consists of triple expansion steam engines on the direct acting, inverted cylinder principle, working three cranks set at angles of 120 degrees. The cylinders are of 26½ in., 44 in., and 74 in. diameter, with a stroke of 54 in. In addition to the usual auxiliaries there is also fitted an evaporator and auxiliary condenser. There are four single-ended boilers, each 16 ft. diameter and 11 ft. 6 in. long, arranged for and fitted with Howden's forced draught. There are three furnaces to each boiler, with furnace fronts of Howden's latest type suitable for burning oil fuel or coal. The boilers are arranged for a working pressure of 200 lb. per square inch, and are to Lloyd's and B.O.T. requirements.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Macharda for Calcutta (Liverpool, September 4): s.s. Malia for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 6).

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, August 25); s.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 8).

British India Line.—S.s. Mantola for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 30); s.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 12); s.s. Mandala for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 13).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Colquhoun for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, September 3).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Eastbourne for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 4); s.s. City of Exeter for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 15).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Egyptian for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, August 26).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Syra, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 6); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas, Sulina, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 20).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, September 5); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcuttta (London, September 6); s.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London, September 19).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Polo for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (London, September 6).

The directors of Lloyds Bank announce that Mr. R. C. Chapple Gill has been elected to a seat on the Board.

An order has been placed by the Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers), Ltd., for a cargo and passenger steamer of approximately 9,500 tons deadweight, with Messrs. Alex. Stephen and Sons, Ltd., Linthouse. The vessel, which is to be employed in the company's Indian service, will have accommodation for 150 first-class passengers.

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INDIA'S TRADE IN JUNE.

Slight Increase in Exports.

The trade returns of India for June showed, as compared with the preceding month, a small increase in the values of exports, coupled with decreases in imports and re-exports. The imports of private merchandise totalled Rs. 18,82 lakhs, and showed a decrease of Rs. 1,78 lakhs, and re-exports also decreased by Rs. 7 lakhs to Rs. 1,25 lakhs. The value of the exports of Indian produce and manufactures rose from Rs. 27,73 lakhs in May to Rs. 28,36 lakhs.

Measured by the statistics of merchandise, treasure, council bills, purchases of sterling and other Government remittances to the United Kingdom, enfaced rupee paper, etc., the visible balance of trade was in favour of India to the extent of Rs. 3,67 lakhs in June, as compared with a credit balance of Rs. 2,50 lakhs in May, and of Rs. 6,79 lakhs a year ago. During the three months ending June, there was a favourable balance amounting to Rs. 4,32 lakhs, as against Rs. 15,93 lakhs in the corresponding period of the preceding year.

As compared with June, 1923, the imports of food, drink, and tobacco increased by Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 1,53 lakhs, raw materials by Rs. 67 lakhs to Rs. 2,27 lakhs, and manufactured articles by Rs. 11 lakhs to Rs. 14,77 lakhs. Under food, drink, and tobacco, sugar 16 D.S. and above, including beet sugar, showed an increase of 3,000 tons in quantity and Rs. 7 lakhs in value. Imports of salt also accounted for an increase of 36,000 tons in quantity and Rs. 10 lakhs in value. Under raw materials, kerosene oil and raw cotton showed increases of Rs. 40 lakhs and Rs. 24 lakhs respectively. Of manufactured articles, the imports of cotton yarn and piece goods showed a considerable increase. Grey goods rose in quantity from 48 million yards to 66 million yards, and in value by Rs. 69 lakhs to Rs. 2,22 lakhs. White and coloured goods also rose by 6 and 2 million yards in quantity and by Rs. 27 and Rs. 22½ lakhs in value. There were, however, noticeable decreases under machinery, including belting (Rs. 74 lakhs), railway plant and rolling stock (Rs. 50 lakhs), and electrical instruments (Rs. 14 lakhs).

As regards exports of Indian merchandise, food, drink, and tobacco, as compared with June, 1923, increased by Rs. 18 lakhs to Rs. 7,73 lakhs, due to an increase in the exports of foodgrains (Rs. 1,05 lakhs), which was partly set off by a decrease of Rs. 96 lakhs in tea. Raw materials and produce exported decreased by Rs. 1,71 lakhs to Rs. 13,48 lakhs. Under this group, oilseeds decreased by Rs. 1,10 lakhs, raw hides and skins by Rs. 49 lakhs, lac by Rs. 30 lakhs, and raw jute by Rs. 15 lakhs, while raw cotton showed an increase of Rs. 15 lakhs, notwithstanding a decrease of 10,000 tons in quantity. Of the total shipment of 45,000 tons of raw cotton, Japan took 15,900 tons, or 35 per cent.; China and Italy 9,000 tons, or 20 per cent. each; Belgium 3,500 tons; France 2,600 tons; and the United Kingdom 1,800 tons. Exports of raw jute decreased in quantity from 21,200 tons to 18,700 tons, and in value from Rs. 78 to Rs. 63 lakhs. Manufactured goods rose by Rs. 1,10 lakhs to Rs. 6,85 lakhs. The shipments of gunny bags fell from 28 millions, valued at Rs. 1,30 lakhs, to 23 millions, valued at Rs. 1,21 lakhs. The yardage of gunny cloth exported rose from 89 millions, valued at Rs. 2,01 lakhs, to 141 millions, valued at Rs. 2,45 lakhs. Other noticeable increases were under cotton yarns and manufactures (Rs. 18 lakhs), tanned skins (Rs. 19 lakhs), and iron and steel (Rs. 14 lakhs).

The share of the United Kingdom in imports fell from 61.3 per cent. in June, 1923, to 56.5 per cent., and in exports from 27.8 to 19.4 per cent. The shares of Germany, Japan, and the United States were, respectively, 6, 7, and 9 per cent. under imports and 4, 17, and 9 per cent. under exports.

The tonnage of vessels entered into British India and cleared outwards with cargoes from and to foreign countries and British Possessions during June amounted respectively to 517,000 and 683,000, as against 581,000 and 752,000 in May and 533,000 and 692,000 a year ago. The tonnage entered into and cleared from British India during the three months April to June was 1,701,000 and 2,118,000 respectively, as compared with 1,636,000 and 2,076,000 in the same period last year.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Iron Bars.—The Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of iron bars, different dimensions, for the workshops and trade schools of the Ministry during the school-year 1924-1925. August 30.

Electrical Motors.—The Superintendent, Government Press, Bulaq, invites tenders for the supply of electrical motors and accessories.—September 11.

Copper Plates.—Tenders are invited for the supply of 11,500 kgs. of red copper plates of varying dimensions. September 1. (D.O.T.)

Paper.—The Superintendent, Government Press, Bulaq, invites tenders for the supply of watermarked paper.—September 20.

Oils.—The general manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of mineral lubricating oils. September 25.

Construction of a Metallic Bridge over the Mahmoudieh Canal at Karmous.—The Municipality of Alexandria invites tenders for the construction of a metallic bridge over the Mahmoudieh Canal at Karmous. September 23. (D.O.T.)

Leather.—The British Commercial Secretary at Cairo reports that a local merchant desires to be placed in touch with United Kingdom manufacturers of leather. He is especially interested in box-calf, kid and patent leathers. (D.O.T.).

Turkey

Bell Tents.—A department of the Turkish Government proposes to purchase 1,000 bell tents. (D.O.T.)

Greece.

Construction of Works at Kavalla Harbour.—Tenders are invited by the Kavalla Harbour Committee for the construction of works at Kavalla Harbour according to the specifications drawn up by the engineer, Mr. A. Ghinis. These works are estimated to cost drs. 76,000,000. The adjudication will take place on December 1, 1924, and tenders must be submitted by that date. A guarantee deposit of drs. 600,000 must be made in the Public Treasury, and this deposit will be returned to unsuccessful competitors within three days after the date of adjudication. In the event of two or more competitors tendering at the same price, lots will be drawn. (D.O.T.)

India.

Wagons.—The South Indian Railway Co. invite tenders for the supply of 109 wagons. October 10.

Dredgers.—The India Store Department invite tenders for the supply of two self-propelling suction dredgers, with radial heads and pumps having 20 in. suction and delivery, also floating discharge pipes, terminal pontoons, anchor lifting pontoons, and floating high-pressure hydraulic pumping plants.

Fencing Materials.—The directors of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company, Ltd., invite tenders for fencing materials, comprising 2,600 galvanised iron eye bolts, 400 steel posts, 3,000 w.i. or steel standards, 400 steel wedges, and 26 tons (approx.) galvanised strand wire. September 2.

Bulgaria.

Locomotives, etc.—The Bulgarian State Railways invite tenders for locomotives, goods trucks, and passenger coaches.—September 10 (D.O.T.).

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Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

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In Egypt the Bank's principal office is at Alexandria; but it also has agencies throughout the cotton-growing districts, and specialises in all operations connected with the moving of the cotton crop.

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N. M. MURRAY, Esq., Offg.
London Manager:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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*MOOLTAN	21,000	Aug. 29	Sept. 5	Colombo & Australia
CHINA	8,000	Sept 5	Sept 12	Bombay & Karachi
NOVARA	7,000	Sept 6	—	Colombo & Calcutta
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*‖TRENEGLOS	4,993	—	Sept. 4	East African Ports
¶†MORVADA	8,193	Aug. 26	Sept. 12	Bombay & Karachi
†MERKARA	8,235	Aug. 30	Sept. 13	Madras & Calcutta
†MANDALA	8,246	Sept. 6	Sept. 26	Bombay and Karachi
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†City of London	8,956	Sept. 16	Bombay and Karachi
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No. 694.—Vol. XXVI.
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1924.

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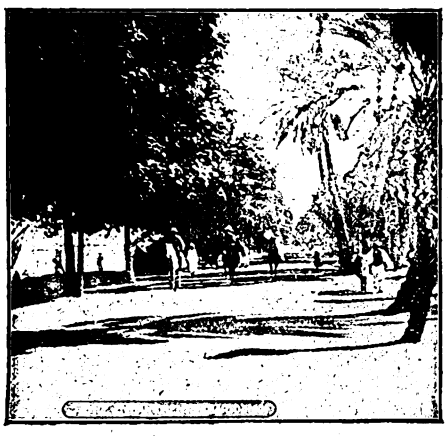

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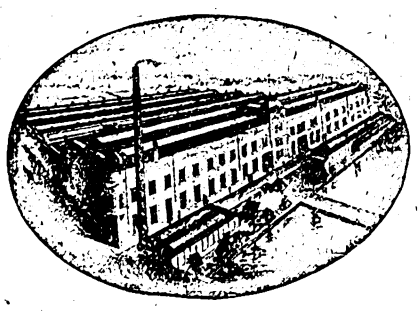

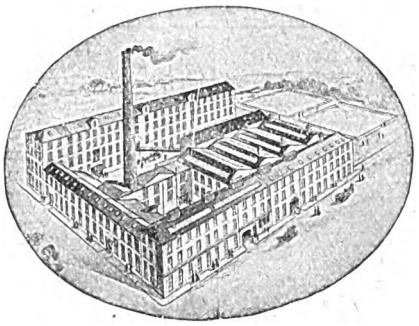

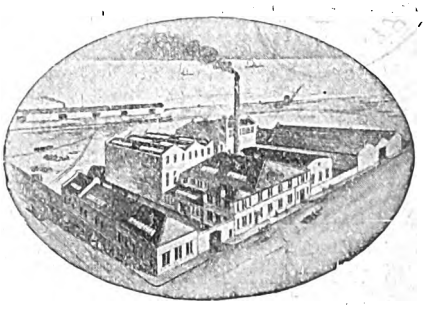

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 694—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Indiscipline in Greece.

What threatened to be a further and much more serious crisis in the Greek Navy than the recent resignation of the majority of the officers has happily been averted at the eleventh hour. By the terms of the proposed Decree reinstating in the service the officers whose resignation, among other causes, led to the fall of M. Papanastasiou's Cabinet, these officers were to lose no seniority as a result of their action, but were to pass automatically over the heads of any of their former juniors who had been promoted in the meantime. The chief reason for the resignations was dissatisfaction over the manner in which promotions were being given by Captain Hadjikyriakos, then Minister of Marine, and in particular over the appointment of a certain Captain Kolialexis to the command of a squadron. The officers who had not resigned resented the proposed settlement, and a protest was sent to the Prime Minister by Captain Kolialexis on behalf of the officers of the cruiser Averoff under his command. M. Sophoulis replied by replacing Captain Kolialexis in the command of the Averoff and by ordering him to undergo two months' imprisonment. For a short time it seemed probable that Captain Kolialexis and the Averoff would defy the Government; but as a result of the intervention of Captain Hadjikyriakos, he agreed to place his ship at the Government's disposal. The Fleet will now be disarmed and the crews temporarily disbanded. As the officers who had resigned showed no eagerness to accept the Government's settlement of the crisis, it may well be that the Government is wisely advised to give the Navy a breathing space in order to find a solution that will prevent it from being split into hostile groups.

Serbs and Croats.

M. Davidovitch can hardly be blamed for taking a little time to find his bearings before he commits himself to a hard-and-fast programme. His statement of domestic and foreign policy—of which a summary was published in THE NEAR EAST last week—was too vague to satisfy those who are looking to him to inaugurate a new era in Yugoslavia, and will not prevent his political enemies from attributing to him any intentions that they imagine will injure him in the eyes of the electorate. In these circumstances it will be well if he can at an early opportunity indicate more clearly the lines on which he proposes to aim at a settlement of Yugoslavia's chief stumbling-block at the present time—the relations between Serbs and Croats. In view of the fact that the Radicals do not command a majority in the Skupshtina, it would be expected that M. Pashitch, if he really believed in the danger that he represents M. Raditch and his Croats to be to the State, would endeavour to win M. Davidovitch to a sound policy instead of driving him into the arms of the Republicans. There are, however, no signs of any such action on the part of the Radical leader. M. Davidovitch, therefore, may feel obliged to wait until M. Raditch has decided upon a political course for the Croat Party before showing his own hand too clearly. It is evident that something more than merely administrative measures, however excellent in scope, will be required if M. Davidovitch's Government is to mark a turning-point in Yugoslav history.

Egypt and Britain.

The liquidation of the Sudan trouble proceeds slowly. With the exception of a belated demonstration at Kosti, which points to a failure to adhere to the original time-table, there has been no further incident in the Sudan. Reinforcements have arrived in Khartoum, and the mutinous Railway Battalion has been repatriated to Egypt. The Egyptian Ministry has sent a reply to the British Note, but if the version of this reply supplied by the official Wafd organ in Cairo be correct, the communication cannot be regarded as likely to hasten the return of good relations between the two countries. By far the most satisfactory feature in the situation is the evidence of a growing appreciation in Egyptian circles that mistakes have been made. Intrigue in the Sudan has had a boomerang effect not at all to the liking of its originators, and it need not be expected that the repatriated battalion will be accorded a popular or an official reception. More serious still, the Egyptian Government, in the absence of Zaghloul Pasha, has not handled the situation with much

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adroitness; instead of associating itself with the British authorities in dealing with insubordination —the natural enemy of all Governments—it has taken up a line which leaves no course open to it now but a few ineffective protests, while Great Britain proceeds to restore confidence in the Sudan by herself.

Shaping the End.

The event may well prove that the Sudan trouble was all for the best. It will have given rise to much more reflection in Egypt than if Zaghloul Pasha had merely come to London, announced the failure of the negotiations, and left the country to vent its disappointment in the approved style. The more thoughtful Egyptians will now realise what a long way the chain of mistakes stretches. One of the earliest links in that chain is the idea that the rôle of agitator can ever be exchanged successfully for that of administrator, and, going back yet another stage, some may begin to question the ultimate advantage of agitation. Again, it may be brought home to those who claim to have more insight into affairs and greater intelligence than a Cairo mob or a group of half-baked students that it is a mistake to leave the country's destinies and policies entirely in the hands of such folk. If the *intelligentsia* had tried to exert its influence, Egypt might have played a more dignified part in the final settlement of the Sudan. A more experienced Cabinet would not have felt the necessity of assuring the nation in an official *communiqué* that it was safeguarding the national rights; the statement suggests a timid appeal to a man with a gun not to shoot because the suppliant is doing his best. Fortunately for Egypt, the incident occurs, so to speak, within the family circle. No advantage will be taken of the Cabinet's inexperience; the solution of the Sudan problem will be the same, although Egypt's part in it may be less flattering to Egyptian *amour propre*. Great Britain derives no satisfaction from the mistakes made, because the wiser and more experienced the Egyptian Government the better for the interests of the two countries.

Trouble in Afghanistan.

The situation in Afghanistan would seem to lie midway between the reticence of the Government of India and the headlines of the *Daily Telegraph*. As a result of the one extreme, the Soviet Government was able to represent Great Britain as actively supporting Abdul Karim, who is the figurehead of the rebellion against the Ameer, and the other extreme encouraged the belief that the present Afghan dynasty was nearing its last days. Both offenders have hastened to mend their ways. A semi-official announcement in India calls Abdul Karim a baseborn wastrel; but a far better answer to Bolshevist propaganda is the sale to the Ameer Amanullah of two British aeroplanes which have been flown to Kabul, where the officer pilots have handed them over to a German personnel. There can be no doubt that the rebellion is causing the Afghan authorities considerable uneasiness. Its centre is inconveniently close to the capital, and a mountain pass leading from Kabul to the headquarters of the acting Commander-in-Chief appears to be still in the hands of the rebels. In the most favourable circumstances it is expected that the suppression of the insurrection will take some time. The reforming zeal of the Ameer has long outstripped the inclinations and the intelligence of his subjects, and the rebels have been able to make a wide appeal to the prejudices of stubbornly unprogressive tribes. British sympathies, it is hardly necessary to point out, are in a case of this sort entirely on the side of constituted authority, and the only possible cause for regret is that the Ameer should have carried his desire for a new régime in Afghanistan so far as to believe that his interests lay in cultivating relations with a number of other foreign Powers to the neglect of the close co-operation which had previously existed between his country and Great Britain.

Dyarchy Under the Microscope.

The minute inquiry into the working of the Indian Constitution has served, at any rate, to enliven the dull season of politics. There is undoubtedly something ludicrous in the procession of disillusioned and perhaps disgruntled ex-Ministers, explaining precisely how and why they failed, but, to our mind, the pathos of the situation is more prominent than the humour. They were, on the whole, good men, living in a mist of phrases; they were called rather suddenly to take an active part in the government of the country; they found that phrases made but indifferent tools; they failed, most of them, to procure more serviceable instruments; and now they blame the system which has exposed so ruthlessly the inadequacy of their equipment. We may perhaps agree with those critics who hold that the working of dyarchy was unnecessarily complicated by the decision to pretend that the double government was single, and we should not be greatly surprised if in future more care is taken to emphasise the responsibility of Ministers for their own work while differentiating them from the other side of the Administration, but, so far as the published evidence goes, nobody can help drawing the conclusion that dyarchy has not yet had a fair trial as a system.

Systems of Representation.

Apart from the idiosyncrasies of ex-Ministers, the most interesting portions of the evidence are those which indicate the hardening of opinion on the subject of the representative system. Hindu politicians of the higher castes intensely dislike the existing plan of reserving a certain proportion of seats for particular communities. Moslems, on the other hand, insist on it as their only safeguard. Representatives of the middle castes ask for its extension in their own interests. The lowest castes of all ask for protection in some form or other from the oppression of upper classes and middle classes alike. To our mind, this question of representation is fundamental, and we think the Indian Government would be well advised to facilitate its study by issuing a statement showing clearly the strength of each caste and community in the existing electorate, compared with its strength in the population as a whole. Is it the case that, in some provinces, the electorate is predominantly aristocratic? Do the classes who ask for protection really possess power which they have not yet learned to use? Definite answers to such ques-

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tions as these would at any rate enable the public to understand the situation and appreciate the rival claims in a way which is impossible at present.

The Muharram Riots.

The belated news of the desperate outbreak at Gulbarga, in the Hyderabad State, arrived just when observers in this country were rejoicing at the fact that the Muharram celebrations had passed with nothing worse than a few riots, efficiently handled and therefore small, in some of the less important northern towns. Apart from the length of the roll of casualties and the extent of the injury to property, the Gulbarga outbreak is significant as marking the continued southward extension of religious bitterness, an ugly fact which our recent Indian visitors were at such pains to belittle. We have been told that the bitterness was purely a local affair, which persons of wide outlook could safely ignore, but, pricking off recent disturbances on the map, it is obvious that, for the time being, trouble may break out in almost any part of India. Sometimes, too, we have been told that such riots were the fault of the British Administration, but there are no British administrators in Gulbarga. How the normally efficient Hyderabad Government was on this occasion taken unawares is a question on which the cables have thrown no light as yet, and on which it is unnecessary to speculate. We need only express the hope that the Ministers of His Exalted Highness will succeed in securing a speedy appeasement.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Rifts in the Lute.

After all, it was bound to come. It was not reasonably to be expected that all the staunch pacifists of the Cabinet could by the London Conference have been suddenly turned into the staunchest patriots, and we now, after the Protocol has been signed by the Prime Minister, have Mr. Snowden, Chancellor of the Exchequer, explaining how iniquitous the permission is to grant to the French one year more in the Ruhr.

It is true that Mr. Snowden based his argument on fear of the effect of the proposals of the London Conference on British industry. But that does not so much matter. The important thing is that he differs fundamentally on this issue from the Prime Minister.

Mr. Snowden, seeing how all the potential critics of the Government have seized on his statements in high glee. has been at pains to point out that no split in the Cabinet is involved. And here, curiously enough, he may be quite right. For a set of men who before they assumed office were the rigidest of doctrinaires, the present Cabinet has the most surprisingly elastic conscience one has ever heard of. The fact that such old catchwords as "the collective responsibility of the Cabinet" mean now nothing at all bothers it not in the least.

It is possible that we may at any time hear that the Chancellor of the Exchequer disapproves profoundly of the proposed loan to Russia, but—*il n'y a pas de quoi*. It will fill the papers for a day, and then nothing more will be heard of it. The explanation appears to be that the present Government is the most subtly disguised of all autocracies: it is a one-man show performing before an audience too fatigued to demand new turns or even a new beauty-chorus.

Mr. Winston Churchill.

The fact that Mr. Winston Churchill is announced to speak next month on the same platform as Sir Robert Horne seems to have been interpreted as meaning his final going over to the Conservative Party. He has, at any rate, had the complacency to call the great party of his ambitions "not unprogressive," and in view of his ability to discern in the Conservatives' camp what the ordinary eye cannot see, the odds are certainly in favour of his being at the next General Election against both the Labour and the Liberal Parties.

When that election will be is still very doubtful. Some observers appear to think that the Government will provoke a crisis with its Irish Boundary Bill; others imagine that both Conservatives and Liberals are too afraid of the verdict of the country in the present year to do much else than acquiesce in the Government's plans. At the moment there is no movement discernible in the sails of any of the three political craft; it is all "as idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean."

The Weather.

There never has been such a time. Lightning and thunder without sultriness, hail without mercy, and not a day without rain. Some good fellow, whose memory must be well above the average, has worked out that during August there have been six rainless days, but one has to suppose that his calculations were based not on the motive of comforting his fellows, but merely on the desire to be different from everyone else.

The efforts of the politicians to cheer us up with news of the London Conference, of the Coliseum management to show us how lawn tennis is not a game but an entertainment, and of the journalists to pretend that there is anything else in the world that matters other than the weather, are all quite dismally unavailing. "Holiday-makers rush for shelter"; "Empire Pageant again Ruined"; and, unkindest of all, "Game Abandoned: Game Abandoned," we continually do read. And the only consolation is that Woolley can make runs on any kind of wicket!

Wheat Harvest.

This is the week of the wheat harvest, and one is rather anxious to know to what extent the crops will have been spoiled by the rains and winds. Those which I have seen could only be dealt with by the cutters and binders drawing in one direction, but one hopes that it is not everywhere so bad as that. What will happen if this monstrous weather proves to have wrecked the crops it is too melancholy to contemplate. Already the fields

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under wheat are 11 per cent. smaller than they were last year, and the tendency is to grow less and less wheat. How the Government is viewing this increasing dependence on outside sources for our staple food I do not know; it is quite possible that it will after this harvest formulate some big scheme. Incidentally, there need be no surprise if some protective measures are found to be advocated by the Government.

The Covent Garden Strike.

One would think, if one were to have believed the papers of the last few days, that the strike of the workmen at Covent Garden were a more important topic to Londoners than is the weather. Both sides in this dispute have had a good deal of publicity, but it is only the newspapers themselves who seem to know on which side the balance of discredit lies.

The most hopeful product of the strike has been the easy way in which dealers have decentralised their traffic; produce has often been transmitted direct from growers to retailers. This is an excellent sign, for the supposed need for our time was more and more centralisation. It even seems possible that as an outcome of this strike the indispensability of Covent Garden as a centre of distribution may be decreasingly realised.

Mars.

Of all the frothy imbecilities in which the newspapers, even in August, indulged, that of getting into touch with Mars by means of wireless—an incredible amount of space has been wasted upon it—was quite the most pathetic. Certain sublime mechanicians, all cock-a-hoop in possession of knowledge ungranted to the old astronomers, assert that they have received messages during the last week from Mars. It is almost surprising that they have not yet been able to decipher these messages.

For all our science and "progress," it is patent that we are as credulous as ever the Middle Ages were, the difference being that whereas formerly there was no limit to the power of Religion, there is now no limit to the power of Science. Let us hope that the Olympians were asleep last week when we brought out the cause of all the bad weather—our 24-valve sets, and Heaven knows what. Mars in the hands of H. G. Wells is far safer than with our wireless experts, who for their antics in the last few days may have called down eternal derision on our age.

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A CYPRUS MESSAGE.

We have received the following telegram from the Greek Press Bureau at Limassol:—"The National Council assembled under the presidency of the Archbishop, and considered the Government's total rejection of the claims of Cyprus and the lamentable condition of the country. It was unanimously decided to appeal directly to the Houses (of Parliament) and claim their assistance."

PRINCE TAFFARI'S GIFT.

Following his visit to the International Labour Office of the League of Nations, Prince Taffari, the Regent of Abyssinia, has sent as a gift to be placed in the new building a magnificent rhinoceros horn mounted in silver by workmen of Abyssinia, forming a stand for a signed portrait of Prince Taffari in a silver frame.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A motor-car carrying forty passengers overturned on August 19, between Mazagan and Safi. Six persons were killed.

Mr. Henry Morgenthau, President of the Refugees' Settlement Commission, left Athens on August 23 for Geneva.

It is reported from Teheran that the Persian Ministers have tendered their resignation to the Premier, who has accepted it.

Mr Wilfred Elias Waite, 57, a first-class passenger on the Indian mail steamer China, died during the homeward voyage and was buried in the Red Sea.

A Blue Book (No. 115) containing the "Budget of the Governor-General of India in Council for 1924-25" has been published at the price of 6s. by H.M. Stationery Office.

King Hussein's newspaper, the *Kibla*, announces that the Hejaz has agreed to exchange diplomatic representatives with the Moscow Soviet, and has already designated Hakim Khan, Minister at Mecca.

The agreement between the Turkish and Greek Governments, regulating the expropriation of property belonging to Turkish and Greek nationals respectively in Turkey and Greece, was signed on August 18.

The Egyptian Press announces that the dispute with King Hussein, provoked by the removal of the Egyptian King's name from the Holy Carpet, is on the point of settlement, upon King Hussein's apologising and restoring the name.

Prince Taffari and his suite left Athens last week for Port Said by the Hesperia, placed at their disposal by the Greek Government. The Prince arrived at Alexandria on August 23. He arranged to sail yesterday from Ismailia for Jibouti.

Proceedings are threatened by the Turkish Government against the Constantinople newspaper *Vatan*, of which Ahmed Emin Bey is editor, for having published news about the Turco-Greek Agreement considered likely to cause popular agitation.

Admiral of the Fleet Earl Beatty left Constantinople on August 23 for Galatz, on his way to Bucharest, where he will be the guest of the King and Queen of Roumania. After staying a week in Bucharest Lord Beatty will return to England by way of Constantinople.

The Greek Princesses Marguerite and Theodora have arrived at Stockholm to visit the Swedish Crown Prince and family, whom they will accompany to their residence, Ulriksdal, outside Stockholm, at the beginning of September. They will remain there for some time.

The Polish War Ministry has issued an order to the effect that applications for Palestinian nationality made by Jewish male citizens of military age will be considered favourably. Many Jews, wishing to escape military service, are seizing the occasion to emigrate to Palestine.

According to the *Pioneer's* Meshed correspondent, an earthquake, which occurred recently in the Ferghana district of Soviet Turkestan, completely destroyed three villages in the vicinity of Osh, killing forty-one persons and wrecking 4,000 buildings. Nearly 9,000 people are homeless and destitute.

Brigadier-General Arthur Edward Aitken, of Sion Hill Place, Bath, who commanded the Tanga Expeditionary Force to East Africa in the early days of the War, and who also saw service in the Sudan Expedition, and who died in Rome on March 29, aged 62, left unsettled property of the gross value of £2,403, with net personalty £2,257.

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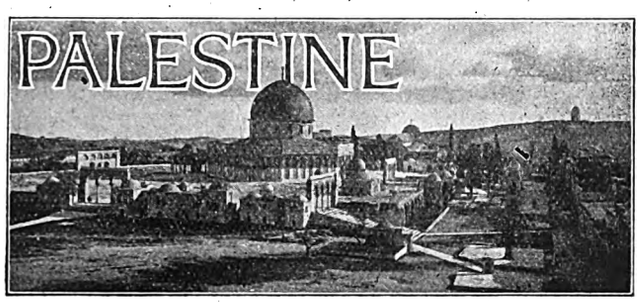
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Jerusalem, August 16.

Affairs in Transjordan.

It had been growing increasingly apparent during the past fortnight that all was not well with Transjordan. With the rise of Ali Rida Pasha er-Rikabi as Prime Minister of Transjordan there seemed to be a prospect of some degree of reform in the administrative departments, especially in that of public security, and that the country would, at last, justify its measure of independence. But a very great deal seems to have been going on under the surface, and now, all the way from Damascus to Cairo, the air is full of gossip about Abdullah's chief Minister's efforts to undermine Abdullah's influence and prestige at home and abroad; the more inveterate gossips even go to the length of suggesting that Ali Rida Pasha's methods are inspired from higher sources. The Emir Abdullah is, however, immediately expected back from Mecca, and if there is anything at all in this gossip we shall soon know.

On the French frontier of Transjordan a large body of brigands—variously reported as hailing from the Transjordanian or the Syrian side—have been active for the past fortnight; and not till two days ago does any serious attempt seem to have been made (except by the French) to cope with the outbreak. At last, however, the Palestine Department of Public Security, in consequence of the pressing representations of the French, have sent off a detachment of British Gendarmerie to operate from er-Remtha, Irbid district, and help to suppress the lawlessness. So far the outbreaks have been mainly in French territory, with the Emir Abdullah's domain as an easy and safe retreat. According to news coming from Syria, the French authorities are inclined to hold Ali Rida Pasha in a high degree responsible, and on the death of a certain French officer at the hands of these alleged Transjordanian brigands there was talk of confiscating Ali Rida's property in Damascus to compensate the family of the French victim.

The most recent of Transjordan's troubles does not seem to have any direct bearing on the country's internal unsettlement. Two days ago the Wahhabis suddenly came into prominence (after staying within their own confines for more than a year), and arrived within ten miles of Amman two thousand strong. Unfortunately for them, the other side was quickly able to bring aeroplanes and armoured cars into action, and the Wahhabis retired east, having lost five hundred killed and wounded. Naturally, this gave the Transjordanian authorities somewhat of a shock, and a detachment of the 9th Lancers (the only British regiment now left in Palestine) stationed at Sarafand was despatched to Amman the same day in the interests of public security.

Indian Moslems and King Hussein.

In the local Arab political arena there is nothing fresh to report. The Seventh Arab Congress still remains unsummoned, and more "Peasant Parties" have sprung up—there are said now to be ten of them, all utterly opposed to the Arab Executive. The presence in Palestine during the past few days of certain Moslem notables from India has brought into prominence the topic of Indian Moslem views on Palestine, and also on Hussein's Khalifate. The Indian Moslems would seem to have had instilled into them the notions of the earlier and cruder anti-Zionist propaganda—Jewish intentions of taking over the Dome of the Rock and the Mosque of Aksa, and flying the Zionist flag over the Sacred Area, and that, generally, Zionism was tantamount to Jewish domination over the Moslem Holy Places. Once these fears were removed from the minds of the Indian visitors their interest in Palestinian politics dwindled considerably, and they declared themselves quite content with the future possibility of a Christian-Moslem-Jewish harmony in Palestine. They had, however, nothing but dislike for Hussein's assumption of the Khalifate and the pretensions of the Hashimite family as a whole; the Khalif must, they held, be one approved by the coming general Moslem Conference to be held next year. It is locally asserted that Hussein has been compelled by pressure from Indian Moslem leaders to refuse to sign the Anglo-Hejazi treaty on the grounds that it removes Palestine from Arab or Moslem control—Palestine to the Indian Moslem being, apparently, identified solely with the Moslem Holy Places. How true such statements are it is not possible to judge; they seem to be created only for local consumption.

The "Garden Tomb."

Most people who are interested in the subject at all have quite fixed and final views on the "Garden Tomb," the Protestant rival site to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. *The Times* a few weeks ago gave unwise prominence to some new evidence supposed to go far towards proving the genuineness of the "Garden Tomb" site. This evidence has now been very badly manhandled. Professor Brandenberg, a well-known student of Mediterranean rock architecture, on whose autho-

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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rity the model of a "columbarium" (the dove-cot arrangement used by the Romans for depositing the urns containing the ashes of the dead), the small object recently discovered, was identified as having something to do with the Temple of Venus known to have been set up in the second century over the site of the actual burial-place of Jesus—as soon as *The Times* article came to his notice Professor Brandenberg came forward with a very indignant denial that he had ever said anything remotely justifying the conclusions arrived at in the course of the article. A still more learned Palestinian archæologist and one-time Danish Consul in Jerusalem has come forward with the probably true explanation of the origin of the "columbarium"—that it was one of many archæological models which the pre-War caretaker of the "Garden Tomb," a Dane, Carl Beckholdt, was in the habit of carving with a penknife out of soft kakuli stone, in order to sell them to visitors. He instanced models of "Absalom's Tomb," two of which were now in his, Professor Dalman's, possession. Finally, the doyen of Palestinian archæologists, Canon J. E. Hanauer, identifies the newly-found kakuli limestone object as a slightly idealised attempt at making a model of the "columbarium" still to be seen on the northern slope of the traditional "Mount of Offence" at Silwan. While as for "the distinct traces of a large building" and "the springs of two arches cut into the rock," which *The Times* article leads one to suppose are relics of that old "Temple of Venus," Canon Hanauer shows them to be work of crusading times and fragments of the stable ("Asnarie," the old name of the site occupied by the "Garden Tomb," means "donkey-stall") for the beasts belonging to pilgrims waiting for permission to enter the Holy City.

PERSIA.

Teheran, August 5.

Reply to the Collective Note.

The Persian Government's reply to the collective Note from the foreign Legations here was delivered to the Turkish Ambassador on July 23 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. It commences by expressing the Government's regret at the murder of the American Consul, as shown by the circular letter already addressed to the Legations, and points out, in reply to the statement in the Note, that the measures taken by the police and military were totally inadequate, that the police had received standing instructions not to fire on a religious holiday (as Friday was), if this could possibly be avoided, and if they had used their rifles this would undoubtedly have further infuriated the mob, and the fact that several policemen and soldiers themselves received injuries at the hands of the mob went to prove that they did their duty and tried their best to restrain the crowd. The Note goes on to say that most of those persons who had forced their way into the hospital had been arrested, and that, although the unfortunate incident was due to a certain extent to the indiscretion of the American Consul and his companion, the authorities are doing their best to get to the bottom of the affair and trace the authors of the outrage (to which the Government attaches much importance). The Note concludes by laying stress on the absolute freedom of religion in Persia and the security which has always been afforded to the non-Moslem minority. This reply was discussed by the foreign representatives, and although obviously non-committal and, therefore, hardly satisfactory, it was decided that no further concerted action was called for.

As was only to be expected, the usual scandalous accusations were heard in town imputing the responsibility for the occurrence to British intrigues, and this called forth a notice issued in the Press by the Prime Minister informing the public that the Government look upon such false rumours imputing the crime to foreigners with disgust, and as their utterance tends to create discord and cause trouble between Persia and friendly nations, anyone publishing or otherwise spreading such mischievous rumours will be severely punished.

The American Demands.

The American Government's demands, which were eagerly awaited here, were embodied in a Note which was handed to the Government last week by Dr. Kornfeld, the American Minister. The Note, which is in a friendly strain, urges on the Persian Government the necessity of bringing to justice the actual perpetrators of the murder and those responsible for its instigation, and reminds the Persian Government of its promise to provide adequate compensation for Mrs. Imbrie, the amount of which is not mentioned, but is to be fixed later. The American Government states that it will send a warship (all expenses in connection with which to be borne by the Persian Government) to Bushire, on the Persian Gulf, to take home Major Imbrie's body, the coffin being escorted through Persian territory by a suitable guard of honour and embarked at the port with full military honours. The Note demands additional security for American officials and residents here by the supply of increased guards at the Consulate and Legation, if this is considered necessary by the latter, and concludes that the continuance of these officials in the country will depend on the goodwill shown by the Persian Government, as will be evidenced by the immediate steps taken by them to comply with the above terms and to give effect to the American Government's demands.

The Persian Government hastened to accept the demands, and with regard to the despatch of an American warship, expressed its regret that it had no warship of its own on which to send home Major Imbrie's remains.

Although numerous arrests have been made, no sentences appear to have been passed or executed yet, with the exception of the expulsion from Teheran of two of the chief mullah agitators. One of these is the notorious anti-British agitator Khalessizadeh, son of the Shiah priest whose deportation by the Iraq Government caused such intense feeling against the British here last year. Khalessizadeh was himself expelled from Mesopotamia, and has now shared the same fate at the hands of the Persian Government. He has had a hand in nearly every political agitation during the last two years, and never lost an opportunity of railing and casting abuse at British policy in the Middle East, both from the pulpit or at public demonstrations.

A very painful impression was caused a few days after Major Imbrie's murder by a deplorable and despicable attack on his widow in the streets of the town, when, I am told, some ruffians in the crowd threw stones at the car in which she was

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driving, and, far from showing respect for her widow's weeds, jumped on to the running-board of the car and attempted to tear Mrs. Imbrie's veil off. Such a dastardly assault on a lady whose husband has been brutally done to death by a Persian crowd is not calculated to show any penitence at the crime, on the part of the man in the street at least, and can but intensify the concern felt by the American Government as to the treatment of its citizens here. It is only fair to add, however, that the crime has caused nothing but disgust and abhorrence among all decent-minded Persians, and one of its outcomes has been that the Cabinet, at the demand of the Minority Party in the Mejliss, who are dissatisfied with the Government's foreign and home policy, has been summoned to appear at the House to give explanations.

General News.

It is a strange coincidence that Major Imbrie's murder should have occurred just at the time when the Northern Oil Concession (granted to the American Sinclair Company) was being discussed by the Mejliss, and just how far there is any connection between the two is, of course, purely a matter of conjecture. Half the clauses of the concession have been passed by the Parliament, and so it is not improbable that the remaining clauses will soon be ratified, but it seems that, after the recent incident, the loan of ten million dollars dependent on the ratification of the concession is out of the question, for it is difficult to see how any American concern would invest money in a country where their interests are apparently so insecure as at the present moment.

There have been reports recently of disagreements between Dr. Millspaugh, the Administrator-General of the Finances, and the Ministry of Finance, and these appear to have been well-founded by the announcement in the local Press that, through the intervention of the Prime Minister, these differences have now been settled.

H.H. the Agha Khan's mother, Lady Ali Shah, arrived here a short time ago, and is proceeding on a pilgrimage to the shrines at Koom and Meshed.

We are once again in the month of mourning, Muharram, the month of processions, breast-beating, and head-cutting, culminating next Tuesday, the tenth day, in the "Ashoora," when large crowds throng the streets to witness the rather alarming processions of men in bloodstained white smocks cutting their heads with blunt swords, and others beating their naked breasts with chains. All business is at a standstill for a whole week throughout the country, during which all Government offices and European institutions are closed, and the staffs take the opportunity of enjoying the holiday in the delightful valleys and villages in the mountains to the north of the town.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, August 19.

Seizure of Arms.

For some time the Bulgarian authorities had suspected that Russian Bolshevists were smuggling arms and munitions into Bulgaria by way of the Black Sea coast. A few days ago at Cape Emine, near Varna, a sailing boat loaded with rifles, ammunition, automatic pistols, and other munitions of war was caught in the act of running its cargo. Out of 120 cases on board, two-thirds were seized, the remainder being thrown overboard by the crew. A number of arrests were made, and it was discovered that a regular organisation existed for the reception and distribution of the arms. The senders are Russians and Bulgarians at Sebastopol, and the destinees are the Bulgarian Communists, who use the arms for their bands. In order that there should be no doubt regarding the veracity of the matter, the Bulgarian authorities invited the Foreign Consuls stationed at Varna to visit the scene of the seizure and see for themselves. This was done, and the Consuls have reported to their Legations in Sofia. This seizure proves that the reports which have been spreading concerning Bolshevist activities in Bulgaria have not been at all exaggerated, and it also proves that the Bulgarian forces of law and order are on the alert. It is, however, to be feared that many other cargoes have successfully evaded the vigilance of the coastguards, and, although fresh measures have just been taken to prevent further smuggling of arms, the limited forces which the Bulgarian Government possesses are a serious deterrent to the avoidance of similar incidents.

The Greek Massacres.

In THE NEAR EAST of August 14 mention was made of the alleged massacre by Greek officials of nineteen Bulgarian peasants. The League of Nations Mixed Emigration Commission, which was asked by the Bulgarian Government to make an inquiry into the matter, has just issued its report, which is signed by the four delegates, Colonel Corfe (British), Commandant de Roover (Belgian), and the Greek and Bulgarian representatives. After remarking that Tarlis, the scene of the massacre, is a little village inhabited by 750 Bulgarian and 50 Greek families, the Commission goes on to say that the district has been perfectly quiet for the last two years. On the evening of July 26, Greek officers and Bulgarian and Greek civilians were gathered together in the village place when a few rifle shots and bomb detonations were heard close by. An alarm ensued, and the Greek Commandant, attributing the shots to Bulgarian *komitajis*, arrested sixty or seventy Bulgarian peasants. Nobody had been hurt by the rifle shots or by the bombs. On the following morning the Commandant sent twenty-seven of the arrested peasants to a neighbouring village under the escort of ten militia, commanded by a certain Lieutenant Doxakis, who was at one time a leader of a *komitaji* band. The peasants were tied together and forced to march over a mountainous and difficult road. Some five or six hours later Lieutenant Doxakis returned saying that his escort had been attacked by Bulgarian *komitajis*, and that as his captives tried to escape, he had shot seventeen, the other ten either escaping or being wounded Meanwhile, there had been no casualties amongst either the escort or the supposed *komitajis*. The Mixed Commission, which spent approximately a

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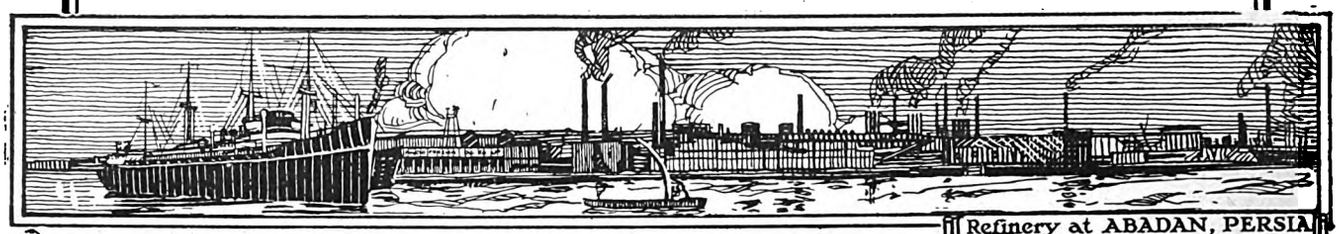

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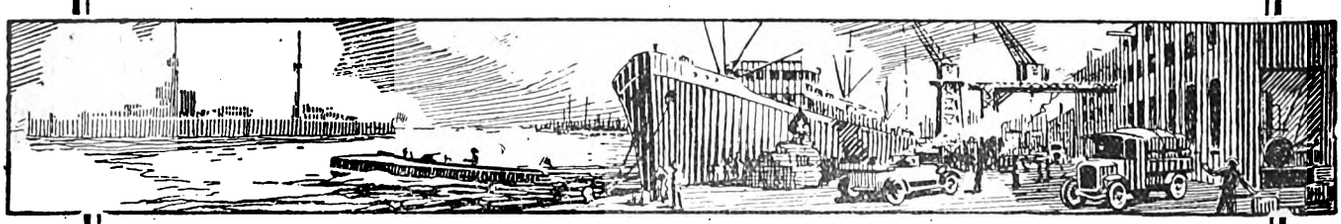

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fortnight on the spot carrying out a thorough inquiry, then proceeds to draw seven conclusions. First, that neither the rifle shots nor the bombs were in the nature of a serious attack, although the spectators might have believed in the seriousness of it. Secondly, the Commission did not find any proofs or any serious indications that the rifle shots or bombs were the work of Bulgarians or *komitajis*, nor that they were the work of Greek provocative agents. Thirdly, the Commission considers that it is established that the escort were not subjected to any attack whatsoever, and that the fire which Lieutenant Doxakis opened constitutes a massacre without justification or provocation. Fourthly, that thirteen peasants were killed, one died of wounds, and the other thirteen are now imprisoned or have escaped. Fifthly, that, independently of the massacre, the Commission considers the local authorities were guilty of grave negligence in not attending to the wounded and not making any proper inquiry. Sixthly, that the result of the above events is that the Bulgarian minorities find themselves under a terror which they, the Commission, are powerless entirely to calm, whilst there has arisen a desire for mass and immediate emigration. Seventhly, and lastly, the Commission absolves the Greek Government from any blame, saying that it agreed to the inquiry, gave all necessary facilities, and previously gave an assurance that the culprits would receive exemplary punishment.

The above speaks for itself, and the Commission are to be congratulated on having ably carried out a difficult and delicate task. It is now to be hoped that less will be heard of the reports, accorded a certain measure of publicity in the European Press, concerning Bulgarian misdeeds along the Greek frontier.

Macedonians and Bolshevists.

The Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation has now definitely declared that it has no alliance with the Soviet, and that the manifesto which recently appeared in the Viennese newspaper, *La Fédération Balkanique*, was a forgery, and was the handiwork of exalted Communists.

NEW BULGARIAN MINISTER.

M. Pantcho Haji Misheff, the newly appointed Bulgarian Minister to the Court of St. James, arrived in London last Friday from Sofia. M. Misheff has represented Bulgaria as Minister at Athens, The Hague, Paris, and Rome. M. Misheff visited the Foreign Office the following day, when he was received by Sir William Tyrrell.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on August 20 of Sir Francis William Stronge, at his residence, Kilbroney House, Rostrevor, County Down. Sir Francis, who was born in 1856, served in various diplomatic capacities, among others at Athens, Budapest, and Constantinople.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

EARLY SANSKRIT LITERATURE.

"CLASSIFIED SANSKRIT LITERATURE." By A. Berriedale Keith. D.C.L., D.Lit. London. (Oxford University Press, 1923. Price, 2s. 6d.)

"THE RELIGIOUS MYSTICISM OF THE UPANISHADS." By R. Gordon Milburn. (London: Theosophical Publishing House, Ltd., 1924. Price 3s. 6d.)

The Heritage of India Series has been enriched by two valuable contributions in Dr. Keith's accounts of the genesis of Sanskrit literature and Mr. Milburn's study of the philosophy of the Upanishads. Dr. Keith reminds us that Sanskrit developed in three directions. For centuries after the Aryan invasion priests enjoyed a monopoly of culture; and the earliest Vedic hymns are couched in a "Hieratic" tongue, which, like the ritual of the Orthodox Greek Church, was quite unintelligible to laymen. As civilisation advanced an "Aristocratic" literature took shape in the Courts of Indian Princes; it was more flexible, though less precise than the Hieratic diction. India's great epic poems, the "Mahábhárata" and the "Ramáyána," are rooted in Classical Sanskrit, and represent Indo-Aryan literature at its apogee. Meanwhile the vernacular speech, known as Prakrit, gained in the power of expressing abstruse ideas, and its influence is seen in the phraseology of the later classics. "The world knows nothing of its greatest men," wrote Sir Henry Taylor in his "Philip van Artavelde," and this dictum applies to the brightest star in the firmament of Sanskrit letters. Kálidása's career is wrapped in mystery; and all that Dr. Keith can tell us is that he probably flourished in the last half of the fourth century B.C. His drama, "Sakuntalá," has given delight to many generations, but its author was equally great in the realms of epic and lyric poetry. Although his works overflow with pathos and breathe the tenderest affection, he stood firmly on ancient ways, and offered no solution of life's problems. A passage in one of his epics denounces a Sudra who had set at naught the Brahmin's exclusive privilege of practising penance. With Kálidása sentiment is the soul of poetry; he was fond of similes, but never allowed them to stifle the main idea, which runs like a golden thread through his exquisite lyrics. Dr. Keith finds a parallel between Kálidása and our Tennyson; both, he thinks, "were poets not so much of inspiration and genius as of perfect accomplishment based on a high degree of talent." This judgment may apply to the great Victorian's later works, but genius alone could have inspired the author of "In Memoriam."

Albeit that Kálidása was capable of describing love unalloyed by earthly dross, his poetry often assumes a strongly erotic colouring. This tendency appears in his countless imitators, especially in Dandin, whose prose romances appeared in the seventh century of our era; and it indicates a profound divergence between Eastern and Western thought. European civilisation has been largely moulded by Pauline Christianity, which regards sexual relations as tabu; while pious

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Hindus exalt them as the supreme manifestation of the Creator's omnipotence. A British official, while touring in Southern India, was shocked beyond measure by certain licentious bas reliefs on a riverside temple, which had evidently been repainted in anticipation of his visit. On remonstrating with the local mayor, he found him quite unable to understand that anything objectionable had been done. "Sir," was his reply, "we like to think that our women-folk's eyes should light upon these pleasing and religious emblems."

Many variants of stories which delighted our childhood are to be found in Sanskrit. A collection of fables dating back to the third or fourth century of the Christian era tells how a Brahmin in hot haste slew a faithful mongoose which had saved his infant son's life by destroying a poisonous snake. In another fable a Brahmin indulges in day-dreams of wealth untold to be gained by a judicious use of a few groats which he had obtained by begging; but a sad awakening comes with the upsetting of an earthenware pot containing his modest capital.

Is there anything whereof it can be said, "See, this is new"? asked the preacher in Ecclesiastes i. 10, and curious parallels can be traced in the wise saws of antiquity. "The destruction of the poor is their poverty" (Proverbs x. 15) is echoed by Bhartrhari's aphorism, which runs:—

The poor man feels shame; overcome by shame, he loses pride; despised, he becomes depressed; depression leads to sorrow; sorrow dims the intelligence. Ah! poverty is the root of misfortune.

Pope warns that "a little learning is a dangerous thing," and the same thought is found in Bhartrhari:—

It is easy to satisfy one who is ignorant; even easier to satisfy a connoisseur; but not the Creator Himself can please the man who has just a morsel of knowledge.

The following tirade has a strangely modern flavour:—

To hell with caste, and even lower still let all the virtues go. But let wealth be ours, wealth without which all these things are but as a blade of grass.

Dr. Keith's erudite treatise is caviare to the general public who know not Sanskrit, but Mr. Milburn's booklet will appeal to a far wider circle. He tells us that the Upanishads were a series of Sanskrit works which set forth the doctrine of the Universal Self, and the means whereby man may attain salvation; but his analysis of their teachings is confined to the twelve oldest Upanishads, which were written in the tenth century B.C. They originated in the ritual of sacrifice, which was strongly tinged by magic, and, as is the case with all organised religion, they eventually developed a mystical side, which inculcated persistent effort to realise the soul's oneness with God. The body of theology thus evolved is known as Vedanta, and its message is:—

Seek freedom; by faith, by knowledge, by self-discipline, try to break free from bondage even here. The breaking of the bonds brings peace now and the hope of immortality hereafter. Man is chained to the earth by deeds and desires. Rise above such desires; cease to act under their impulses. Make yourself familiar with the Real and the Eternal even here, and at death you will pass away to the Beyond, to the Brahma world, to partake of the transcendent life of God.

Vedanta, however, concerned itself only with the priestly caste, and its teachings never broadened out into a national or racial religion. Three centuries rolled by ere the Buddha, build-on these narrow foundations, elaborated a world-embracing creed. Mr. Milburn's preface contains an admirable set of rules for the translator's guidance, and his renderings of selected passages from the Upanishads show consummate mastery of an art which has never received due recognition. They also prove that the human intellect is a "constant," and responds in the same manner to external stimuli from age to age. F. H. S.

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A TREASURY OF INDIAN FOLK-LORE.

"THE OCEAN OF STORY." Being C. H. Tawney's Translation of Somádeca's Katha Sarit Sagara. Now Edited with Introduction and Notes by M. M. Penzer. With a Foreword by Sir Richard Carnac Temple, Bart. In Ten Volumes. Vol. I. (London: Privately printed for subscribers only by C. V. Sawyer, Ltd., Grafton House, W.1.)

Over forty years ago the Asiatic Society of Bengal published a translation of "The Ocean of Story," by Mr. Tawney, the greatly loved and learned Principal of the Presidency College, Calcutta, and later Librarian of the India Office. This book has long been out of print, and the progress of knowledge has made the author's notes out of date. Mr. Penzer has reprinted Tawney's translation with revisions and addition of matter omitted, and has made a new book of it by the provision of numerous notes based on the latest researches in folk-lore. He has, the publishers tell us, produced a book roughly eight times as large as the original edition.

Only the first volume has so far appeared, but nine additional volumes are promised in quick succession. If, as no doubt will be the case, all the volumes keep up the exceedingly high standard set by the first, the work will be one of the very highest importance. Not only is Tawney's translation delightfully readable, but Mr. Penzer's notes are highly interesting, full of learning, and written in a manner worthy of the friend of Burton. The work, when complete, will be something very like an encyclopædia of folk-lore science.

We would, however, not wish our readers to believe that the book is remarkable only on account of the learning so modestly displayed by Mr. Penzer. The text is in itself of the highest interest. It was written in Kashmir about the time of the Norman Conquest of England, and represents the earliest-known collection of Indian tales, of which so many later collections are known. The tales are very numerous, and dovetail into one another in the well-known manner. All are not equally good, but most of them are not only excellent in themselves but are skilfully put together by their author of eight-and-a-half centuries back. Even to the veriest tyro in the realms of folk-lore they are interesting. Our space is, unfortunately, too limited to allow of quotation.

We must, however, add that the production of the work keeps pace with its other excellences. Paper, print, *format*, and binding are all worthy of the best reputation of modern book producers in this country, and the price at which it is offered is relatively low. A full index of Sanskrit words and proper names is followed by an equally full general index.

Altogether, a very beautiful, human, and scholarly work.

C. S.-W.

CORRECTION.

We regret that in our review in our issue of August 14 of "Cook's Handbook to Palestine and Syria," the price of the book was wrongly given. It should have been 10s. 6d.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

August 28, 1924 (New Style).
August 15, 1924 (Old Style).
Muharram 27, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Ab 28, 5684, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Roumanian Minister, M. Titulesco, has left London for St. Moritz.

Sir Lucas Ralli has arrived at Claridge's Hotel, London, from Eastbourne.

The Counsellor at the Yugoslav Legation and Madame Fotitch left London last week for Belgrade.

Lord Islington, accompanied by Colonel John Dodge, has left London for a stay of a month in Turkey.

Sir L. and Lady Alexander left London last Friday by the P. and O. steamship Delta for Casablanca.

The Albanian Minister left London on August 24 for Geneva and Tirana. He will be away for two months.

The Maharaja of Kutch left the Carlton Hotel, London, last week for the country, and will be away for about three weeks.

Princess Marie of Greece and Admiral Ioannides returned to London on August 22 from Paris. They are leaving for Harrogate this week.

Colonel Antonesco, Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation in London, will represent Roumania at the League of Nations Assembly.

The Maharaja and Maharani of Jind were among the passengers arriving in England last Friday from New York by the White Star liner Majestic.

Sir Ali and Lady Imam, Mr. Safder Imam, and Sir Krishna Gupta left London last Thursday to join the P. and O. s.s. Morea at Marseilles for Bombay.

Colonel C. Douglas Capitaneano, formerly Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, who has arrived in London from Bucharest, is staying at 43, Clarges Street.

Mr. Norman Nairn, of the Nairn Transport Company, Beyrout, left London for Syria last Monday, joining the Messageries Maritimes s. Cordellière at Marseilles on August 27.

Viscount and Viscountess Erleigh, who have arrived in India on a visit to the Viceroy and the Countess of Reading, at their hot-weather camp, will be back in London on October 11.

The engagement is announced of Roy Vickers Bardsley, Sudan Political Service, only son of the late Mr. A. Bardsley and Mrs. Bardsley, of The Coppice, Buxton, to Helen, only daughter of Major-General Sir Lee and Lady Stack, of The Palace, Khartoum.

Mr. Peter Augustus Jay, United States Minister in Roumania, who arrived in London on August 20 from Bucharest, sailed from Southampton last Saturday in the President Harding for New York.

Prince Nicholas of Roumania, who for the past year has been undergoing naval training in His Majesty's ship Benbow, has arrived in London from the Mediterranean, on leave. He is staying at the Roumanian Minister's residence in Grosvenor Street.

Lord Haig and the British Legion are giving a dinner at the Hotel Victoria on September 15 to meet the "Fidac" delegates from America, Belgium, Czecho-Slovakia, France, Italy, Poland, Roumania, and Yugoslavia. "Fidac" signifies the Fédération Interallié des Anciens Combattants.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Mr. Andrew Ryan, who has been Chief Dragoman at Constantinople since January, 1921, has been appointed Consul-General at Rabat, in French Morocco.

The King has granted authority to Mr. Walter James Ablitt, Assistant Commandant of Police at Alexandria, to wear the insignia of the Order of the Nile, Fourth Class.

The War Office announces the appointment of Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Cyril Byrne Haking, G.B.E., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., to be Colonel of the Hampshire Regiment, in succession to Major-General Sir Charles Benjamin Knowles, K.C.B., deceased. General Haking last year succeeded Sir Walter Congreve as G.O.C. in Egypt.

The following promotions and transfers in the Colonial Service have been made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—Mr. T. F. Garvin, K.C., Solicitor-General, Ceylon, to Puisne Judge, Ceylon. Mr. J. C. Howard, President of the District Court, Nicosia, Cyprus, to Kings Advocate, Cyprus. Dr. J. F. E. Bridger, Sanitary Commissioner, Ceylon, to Principal Civil Medical Officer, Ceylon.

The Times Jerusalem correspondent reports that Mgr. Godric Kean has been appointed Auxiliary Bishop to Mgr. Barlassina, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem. This is the first occasion that such an appointment has been given to an Englishman. Mgr. Kean, who was rector of St. Mary's Mission at Oldham, resigned at the beginning of the War and served as Chaplain to the Forces in France, Belgium, Egypt, and Palestine. In 1922 he returned to Lancashire, but last year was appointed Chaplain at Mount Carmel in Palestine.

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THE BALKAN HOUSE OF GLASS.

Yet another instance of the fact that the home of the Balkan nations is built of glass and that it is dangerous for any member of the family to indulge in the habit of throwing stones is afforded by the report of a mixed Commission of the League of Nations charged to investigate the killing of a number of Bulgarian peasants in Greece at the end of July. The report is signed by all the four members of the Commission—a Greek, a Bulgarian, a Briton and a Belgian—and has, therefore, more significance than if it had been the work of delegates entirely foreign to the Balkans. It establishes the following facts:—A small village called Tarlis on the Greek-Bulgarian frontier is inhabited by a number of Bulgarian and Greek families, who had contrived to live without incident for the last two years. On the evening of July 26, Greek officers and Bulgarian and Greek civilians were gathered together in the market place when several rifle shots and detonations of bombs took place near by. Nobody was hurt. The Greek commandant attributed the event to Bulgarian *komitajis*, and arrested between sixty and seventy Bulgarian peasants. Twenty-seven of these were sent the next morning under the charge of Lieutenant Doxakis, formerly the chief of a *komitaji* band, to a neighbouring village. The peasants were tied together and forced to traverse a difficult mountain road. Five or six hours afterwards Lieutenant Doxakis returned, stating that his escort, which consisted of ten militiamen, had been attacked by Bulgarian *komitajis*, that the captives had tried to escape, and that he had fired on them, killing seventeen. The others escaped, but some were wounded. After an inquiry conducted on the spot, the Commission came to the following conclusions:—(1) that the shots and bombs were not of the nature of a serious attack; (2) that there was no proof or any serious indication that the shots and bombs were the work of Bulgarians, or *komitajis*, or Greek *agents provocateurs;* (3) that the escort was not attacked, and that the fire that Lieutenant Doxakis opened constitutes a massacre without justification or provocation; (4) that the local authorities were guilty of grave negligence in not attending to the wounded, not informing relatives, not identifying the dead, and not properly burying the same, and in not making any serious inquiry, whilst, in addition, subjecting another group of Bulgarians unnecessarily to cruel treatment. A rider is added to the effect that the Commission considers that the Greek Government, which agreed to the holding of the inquiry, is not involved.

The first thing to be borne in mind in connection with this incident is that there is nothing at all unfamiliar to the Balkans in the conditions and incidents reported upon by the Commission. It so happens that in this particular instance the victims were Bulgarians and the perpetrators of the "massacre" Greek; but exactly the same thing could happen, and no doubt has often happened, not only with the nationalities in the two rôles reversed, but also with all the possible changes rung in regard to the nationality of the peoples concerned on each of half a dozen or more Balkan frontiers. Neither the lieutenant nor the local authorities would be conscious of having exceeded or fallen short of their duties. The shots near the village would be regarded as a convenient opportunity for disciplinary action; an officer, especially an ex-*komitaji*, would not have to be told what was expected of him when ordered to conduct a band of prisoners to another place, and no one would be surprised when he returned after a short interval with the report that he had been attacked and that some of the prisoners had been shot in attempting to escape. The last thing that would occur to the local authorities in such circumstances would be to adopt any one of the courses referred to by the Commission when it suggests that they failed in their duty in not attending to the wounded, and so on. In its fifth "conclusion" the Commission states that, as a result of the events recorded, the local minorities find themselves terror-stricken, and that there is a desire for immediate mass emigration. Whether the emigration takes place or not, there can be little doubt of the bad blood now engendered in a village where the two nationalities had lived at peace with one another for two years. Sooner or later vengeance will demand its own; somewhere along that same frontier Greek lives will pay the penalty for the seventeen victims at Tarlis, and so the curse of racial hatred runs its course.

The Tarlis episode, however, is noticeable for one unusual development. It marks in all probability the first occasion when the Government primarily concerned has not only facilitated the holding of an inquiry, but has also undertaken to punish the culprits "with exemplary severity." If the Government of M. Sophoulis carries out this undertaking to the letter, there is some reason to hope that its action may eventually lead to a new era in the Balkans. There will be no desire on the part of anyone acquainted with conditions on the Balkan frontiers to attach special blame to the authorities of one particular district because an incident in which they are involved has achieved wide notoriety. If they are not aware of a grave dereliction of duty in connection with an episode of this nature, it is because their conscience has become blunted by frontier traditions, which hold life of little account and are entirely divorced from the morality of latter-day civilisation. Not only is their conscience blunted, but public opinion in that part of the nation which has nothing to do with frontier life has also been so indifferent to the national honour that in the past it has refused to believe or to inquire into excesses attributed to its own countrymen, while readily crediting and exaggerating the alleged excesses of others. It will call for considerable courage on the part of the Sophoulis Cabinet to make an example of everyone implicated in the Tarlis "massacre"; but unless it does, no Greek Government in the future can hope to impress the European public when it complains of outrages of which its nationals have been the victims on any of Greece's frontiers. On the other hand, if it can show that its own hands are clean in this matter, it will be able to appeal with irresistible force to all the other Governments in the Balkans to join it in a resolve to put an end to a condition of things that has long been a disgrace to the Peninsula. From this will follow the elimination of *komitaji* bands, and the ground will then be clear for the close co-operation of the Balkan States, which all the peoples genuinely desire, but which no Government hitherto has been willing to take practical steps to secure.

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THE LAW OF MODERN EGYPT.*

BY SIR MALCOLM McILWRAITH, K.C.M.G., K.C.

Some irreverent person once described the Common Law of England as an "ungodly jumble." If one had to find a phrase of two words in which to describe the complicated legal and judicial system of Egypt, as it has hitherto existed—moulded, as it has been, by the legislative disabilities and international restraints of various kinds which the circumstances of this cosmopolitan country have imposed upon it—one would be inclined to call it a "judicial Babel." All that one can hope to do therefore, within the brief limits of an hour's discourse, is to thread one's way rapidly through this legal labyrinth and endeavour to point out *en route* its most salient features.

The law of modern Egypt may, for practical purposes, be divided into two main branches, viz., (1) the law applicable to foreigners, either among themselves or in their relations with the natives, and (2) the law applicable to natives only.

And though the total number of the foreign population of Egypt does not exceed some 200,000 inhabitants, the importance of these "foreign colonies," as they are called, by reason of their wealth, intelligence, and political influence, is such that they have always loomed very large on the local horizon. Moreover, since it is their affairs which primarily interest a European audience, I shall deal first with this branch of the law, and, secondly, with the law applicable to natives only.

Now, the whole of the law applicable to foreigners in Egypt, as it has hitherto existed, hinges primarily on what is comprehensively known as the "Capitulations"—that is to say, the body of rights, privileges, and immunities of a legal and fiscal character, hitherto enjoyed by the subjects of foreign nations in the Ottoman Empire and in other countries of the East. I shall make no attempt to describe in detail that system here, for it would manifestly occupy one or several lectures by itself. Briefly, it simply means that foreigners in general are not subject to the local law or the local law courts, and cannot be taxed by the local Government. As a result of this system, the law applicable to foreigners in Egypt, both in civil and criminal affairs, was for centuries their own national law, administered to them by their own Consuls in their own Consular Courts. The principle was that in civil (including commercial) affairs every plaintiff had to sue the defendant in the latter's Consular Court, in accordance with the maxim "*actor sequitur forum rei.*" The legal and judicial chaos to which this system ultimately gave rise in Egypt has been eloquently described in many of the treatises above referred to, and more especially in the Reports of the French Government Commission of Paris of 1867; the International Commission of Cairo of 1870; and the Constantinople Commission of 1873, which led to the establishment of the present Mixed Tribunals in 1875. When these Courts were set up, there was enacted a common body of legislation, applicable to all foreigners in their relations with each other, or in their relations with natives. Thenceforward the law was as follows:—In all disputes between foreigners of different nationality or between foreigners and natives, as well as in all disputes relating to land (even between foreigners of the same nationality), the law applicable was this new body of legislation, introduced in 1875, at the time of what is still called "La Réforme Judiciaire." But in all disputes between foreigners of the same nationality—unless it related to land—as well as in all crimes committed by foreigners, and in all matters of personal statute (such as marriage, succession, guardianship, and the like), the law applicable to foreigners continued to be their national law, administered to them by their Consuls. And that is, broadly speaking, the situation down to the present time.

This new body of legislation for foreigners of different nationality, litigating with each other or with natives in ordinary civil and commercial affairs, consists of four main classes, viz.: First, these "Mixed Codes" of 1875; secondly, the supplementary legislation, promulgated by the Egyptian Government with the approval of the Treaty Powers (*i.e.*, those which were parties to the judicial reforms of 1875); thirdly, legislation of a minor character which the Egyptian Government has been empowered to enact with the assistance of the Mixed Court of Appeal; and, fourthly, of a somewhat more important type of legislation, which, under a comparatively recent statute, the Government has been authorised to issue, with the aid of a special organism to be described hereafter. Some explanation is required as to each of these different classes of legislation.

A. *As regards the Codes*, they were in the main copies of the French Napoleonic Codes of 1804 and following years, but they differ from the latter in some important respects. Thus the Mixed Civil Code contains none of the family law which forms so important a part of its great prototype, since all such matters of personal statute are, as I have said, still reserved to be dealt with by the Consulates. On the other hand, the Egyptian Code contains certain provisions which have been inserted to meet the special necessities of Egypt, such as those for the protection of foreign creditors, which are not to be found in the French Code (see, *e.g.*, Articles 107, 176, and 197 of the Mixed Civil Code). Generally, it must be said that these codes, which were very hastily put together, are in many respects defective. There are numerous omissions and *lacunæ* of various kinds, as well as some inconsistencies, and it is often difficult to understand why certain divergences were made from the French original. They therefore require more or less complete revision, and this, up to the present, it has never been practicable to undertake by reason of the immense difficulty of legislating for foreigners under a system which required the consent of nearly all the European Governments to which such foreigners are subject.

B. As regards legislation with the approval of the Powers, this was usually effected by means of

(*) Being part of an address delivered at Cambridge University on August 11 last.

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International Commissions sitting in Egypt. The ordinary method was for the Egyptian Government to present to the foreign Governments a programme of the reforms it desired, whereupon these foreign Governments appointed their diplomatic representative in Egypt as their Commissioner for the purpose. The local Diplomatic Corps then resolved itself into an "International Commission," and each diplomatic representative was assisted by a technical delegate (without a vote), who was almost invariably the judge of that Power in the Mixed Court of Appeal, or in one of the Tribunals. I had the honour to sit in many of these Commissions as the legal assistant of the late Lord Cromer and of his successor, the late Sir Eldon Gorst, and I was the only technical delegate who was not a judge. I had thus abundant opportunity to observe, impartially, the defects of this institution, although, eventually, many important measures were safely piloted through it. The system was unpractical, its main defects being that, on the one hand, the diplomatic representatives were, as a rule, quite unversed in the abstruse legal problems they were called upon to solve; and, on the other hand, the technical delegates—who resolved themselves into a Sub-Commission, and really did all the work—were both too little acquainted with the general conditions and requirements of the country to make competent legislators, and too fully occupied with their judicial functions to have the requisite time to devote to legislative duties. The result was that many of these Commissions dragged on for years, to the great detriment of the country's interests and to the annoyance of suitors in the Courts, whose cases were frequently postponed by reason of the judges' constant occupations elsewhere.

C. The third class of legislation was, like so many other institutions in Egypt, a compromise between the practical necessities of the country and the jealousy of the Powers. Certain small matters of police legislation, sanitary affairs, and petty administration generally were delegated to the Court of Appeal, under a decree of 1889, the Court being empowered to approve such legislation on behalf of the foreign Governments. In these matters, however, no higher penalties were permitted than a week's imprisonment or a fine of £1. Such penalties were manifestly insufficiently deterrent in serious affairs where severe repression was essential, and many of the abuses aimed at continued to flourish in defiance of such regulations.

D. The fourth and last class of this legislation is that which is effected by means of what is known as the "Article 12 Assembly." This organism was established by a law of 1911, modifying Article 12 of the Mixed Civil Code, from which it has thus taken its name. It consisted in a still further recourse to the judges as legislators—a bad system, in Egypt at any rate, as has been pointed out, but the only alternative which the Powers would accept to the intolerably cumbersome Commissions. Under this system the Mixed Court of Appeal, supplemented by the senior judge of each Power not represented in that Court, was empowered to make "additions and amendments" to mixed legislation (notably the Codes) not confined, as under the 1889 Decree, to matters of Police and petty administration, but not permitted to affect any matters of fundamental principle laid down in the Organic Statute. This innovation has proved a very useful measure, and has entirely superseded in practice the former Commissions. By means of it the Egyptian Government has been enabled to pass certain laws which were of too controversial a nature to have had any chance of getting through an International Commission. I may mention, as the most notable of these, the famous "Five Feddan Law" of 1912, which establishes the immunity from seizure and sale for debt of the homestead in small agricultural holdings not exceeding five feddans, or roughly five acres in extent. This measure was due entirely to Lord Kitchener, whose great solicitude for the welfare of the *fellaheen*, or peasant, population was the most marked feature of his Egyptian administration. It was aimed at the exploitation by the village usurers of the large and defenceless class of peasant proprietors, and was based on the Punjab Land Alienation Act of 1900, with which Lord Kitchener had become acquainted in India.* Concerning this measure, which roused much controversy in Egypt at the time, I may observe that the legal advisers of the Government were very sceptical as to its wisdom or practicability. I remember that an eminent Greek financier told me at the time that he had offered to bet Lord Kitchener anything he pleased that within three months of its promulgation the Greek usurers—against whom the measure was chiefly aimed—would have discovered at least three different ways of successfully evading its provisions. These doubts have proved fully justified by the event. The *fellah* has been the chief victim of the law designed for his protection. Being unable by means of a mortgage on a property of less than five feddans to obtain advances from the banks—notably the Agricultural Bank, which had been founded by Lord Cromer and Sir Ernest Cassel for the precise purpose of delivering him from the clutches of the local moneylenders—he has once more had recourse to these sharks, to whom he has been compelled to hand over his land, in pledge, as a security for the loan. This the law does not forbid. It is true that the creditor holding the pledge (*créancier gagiste*) is forbidden by the law to sell the land; but as he has a right of retention until he is paid, and as he usually fails to render a strict account of the profits, he is, in fact, in as privileged a situation as if he held a mortgage. And the debtor consequently finds himself, in practice, no better off than if he had been legally expropriated. Another common device of these village usurers is to require the borrower to purchase a fraction more land, sufficient to make up his holding to five and an-eighth feddans, the purchase-money being included in the loan. This is sufficient to take the case out of the statute. There are various other equally effective means of eluding this famous law.

We have now dealt with the *civil* legislation affecting foreigners. As regards criminal law, these matters, as previously observed, are still in the main reserved to the Consulates of the foreign Powers, which apply their own criminal law. Certain matters are, however, dealt with by the local law. Thus practically all police offences committed by foreigners are punished by the Mixed Penal Code or by decrees of the Government which have received the assent either of the Powers or of the local judges, under the statutes referred to.

* Also the Homestead Exemption laws in the United States of America, which have been copied by the French, in their law of July 12, 1909, instituting the *bien de famille insaisissable*.

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Again, jurisdiction in bankruptcy misdemeanours has been conferred by the Powers on the Mixed Tribunals, because such matters can manifestly best be dealt with by the Court which conducts or supervises liquidations in bankruptcy. These Courts have, therefore, been empowered to inflict imprisonment up to five years for such offences.

Finally, certain crimes and misdemeanours committed by or against the judges and personnel of the Mixed Tribunals themselves are within the criminal jurisdiction of these Courts. Practically the only forms of these offences met with in practice are libels and Press offences against the judges and officials of the Courts.

2. Passing now to legislation applicable to Natives only, this may be roughly divided into two classes, viz., civil and criminal on the one hand, and personal or family law on the other. The first class consists of the legislation promulgated by the Egyptian Government under the general powers of autonomy conferred upon it by the *firmans* of the Porte. Such legislation can bind natives only or such foreigners as are not protected by the Capitulations.

The second class consists of religious law, by which, in Eastern communities, family relations and similar questions of personal statute are ordinarily regulated. The source of such religious law is the Koran and Mohammedan law generally in the case of Moslems, and the different types of Canon law as regards the various sects and denominations of Native Christians.

The legislation passed by the Egyptian Government consists of the Native Codes and the vast mass of laws and decrees by which such codes have been supplemented since 1883, when they were first issued.

Reference has already been made to the chaos and confusion which led to the establishment of the Mixed Tribunals. The situation which necessitated the reorganisation of the Native Courts and the revision of the legislation they administered was at least as grave—in a sense far graver, for the number of persons affected was infinitely larger. The most authoritative account of such situation, in a few words, is to be found in Lord Dufferin's Report of 1883 (Egypt, No. 6, 1883), in which he said: "The chief requirement of Egypt is justice. A pure, cheap, and simple system will prove more beneficial to the country than the largest constitutional privileges. At this moment there is no real justice in the country. What passes under the name is a mockery, both as regards the Tribunals themselves and the 'corpus juris' they pretend to administer. Since the time of Mehemet Ali a hybrid sort of civil justice has been gradually established. The *cadis*, or religious judges, have indeed preserved their jurisdiction in questions relating to marriage, the descent of property, the guardianship of minors, etc.; but all other matters, whether civil or commercial, are now brought before the Tribunals which have superseded them."

After explaining this organisation, Lord Dufferin proceeds:—"But this organisation, though presenting a fair appearance on paper, is of little value as a justiciary. In the first place, none of the occupants of the Bench in any of these Courts have had a legal training, having been promiscuously selected from the general public, without reference either to their character or qualifications, and, in the next place, there are no real laws in existence to guide their proceedings. At one time the French Codes are invoked, at another the regulations formerly in force before the old Mixed Tribunals, and at another the precepts of the Mohammedan religion. The misery and confusion entailed by such a state of things has long since attracted the attention of the Egyptian Government."

A complete recasting, therefore, of the organisation of justice for natives was essential, and the new Courts and the new Codes were launched by a Decree of June 14, 1883.

These Codes were largely a reproduction of those promulgated for the Mixed Tribunals eight years earlier. Unfortunately they are in some respects even more defective and inadequate than their prototypes, and they have been considerably amended from time to time. Notably the Penal and Criminal Procedure Codes were drastically revised and repromulgated in 1904, the work having occupied five years. As observed, all these Codes have been supplemented constantly by laws and decrees of the Government, with the assistance of the former Legislative Council; and the collection of these laws and decrees now fill some thirty-five volumes, one having been published every year. Together they constitute Egyptian law as applicable to natives.

In most important matters it has long been the practice, where a new law was issued, to promulgate it simultaneously for natives and Europeans alike by securing, in the latter case, the assent of the Powers or other requisite local authority.

As regards personal or family law, it is sufficient to say that, so far as Moslems are concerned, it is to be found in the Koran and its authoritative commentaries. But Mohammedan law, as administered in Egypt, has long been defective in certain respects, and it was earnestly desired to effect improvements in it. Any attempt of this kind, however, always met with determined opposition under the régime of the ex-Khedive, and it has only been since the accession of the late enlightened Sultan and his successor, King Fuad, that it has been possible to undertake certain reforms. The basis of such reforms is not, of course, any fundamental modification of principles, since, as is well known, the sacred law is fixed and unalterable. It consists, therefore, merely in the importation into the official Hanafite rite of more equitable solutions derived from the other rites. There is nothing revolutionary in such a proceeding, for there were formerly in Egypt cadis or judges of all the four orthodox rites, and in the event of a dispute between parties belonging to different sects, it was the rite of the defendant which prevailed. It was only at the commencement of the nineteenth century that the Hanafite rite was adopted as the general one for the solution of all disputes, whatever might be the denomination of the parties in the cause. A strong and representative committee of Moslem doctors has therefore been formed in Egypt, whose object it is to revise and harmonise the various solutions

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permitted by Mohammedan law as a whole, and to apply the most equitable principle to cases which, under the Hanafite rite, have given rise to special difficulty and complaints. The labours of this committee have already met with considerable success, and are of excellent augury for the future of Mohammedan law in Egypt.

Finally, it is to be observed that in all these matters of religious law it remains to be seen what will be the effect, in Egypt, of recent events in Turkey, which have produced a grave crisis for Islam. As is well known, the Khalifate has been abolished by the Turks, justice has been secularised, and the law has been ordered to be revised in this sense. So profound and revolutionary a break with the theocratic traditions of the Moslem polity is difficult to grasp, and its effects will naturally be watched with the keenest interest by ourselves, who are the greatest Mohammedan Power in the world. So far as it is possible to judge at present, it does not seem at all likely that the Turkish lead will be followed in Egypt, where the great Mohammedan University of El Azhar is the most reactionary and conservative stronghold in the world of the principles and practice of Islam. A more probable result of these events is that the hegemony of Islam may pass from Turkey to Egypt, and Cairo may become in the future the centre of the Mohammedan faith. At present, however, the *Ulema* of Egypt appear to be quarrelling amongst themselves on the whole subject, and may very possibly never be able to agree upon a Khalif.

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

***The columns of* The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.**

BAGHDAD'S WATER SUPPLY.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—I fear that your Iraq letter of July 30 (p. 188 of your issue of August 21) does rather less than justice to the quality of Baghdad's water supply. It can scarcely be described as "heavily chlorinated," the dosage of chlorine at the main pumps being practically identical with that of London water, and at the other stations only fractionally greater. Complaints of taste are rare, and the majority of Baghdadis, like the majority of Londoners, are unaware that their supply is chemically treated. The treatment has been carried on for seven years with highly satisfactory results, the frequent routine tests of the Pathological Laboratory showing a bacteriological improvement of approximately 99 per cent. Incidentally, the bacteriological standard shown by these tests is higher than that of pre-War London water.

The apparatus is under the control of local personnel, with British supervision. An occasional faulty adjustment may lead to temporary overchlorination with production of slight taste, but not to an undrinkable water. The system has undoubtedly saved an enormous expenditure on water-works and a large amount of water-borne disease.

The excess of sediment to which your Correspondent refers is unavoidable during the flood season of the Tigris until suitable reservoirs and flumes can be installed, and this is purely a question of money. The distribution of a water free from sediment is certainly very desirable, and some further bacteriological improvement will undoubtedly follow from it, but this improvement cannot be very great. As regards the problems of distribution, it may be remarked that among the special difficulties are the rapid corrosion of pipes in a soil impregnated with gypsum and salt, and the numerous subsidences and fractures of mains resulting from the underground cavities, cellars and "serdarbs" which abound in the city.

As soon as funds are available, a more ample supply will be secured, but there is no cause for alarm as regards the purity of the present supply or its safety from a health standpoint.—Yours, etc.,

F. L. Bassett,
Government Chemist, Iraq.

Shipley, Sussex, August 23.

THE AHMADIA MOVEMENT.

His Holiness the Khalifa-tul-masih, Alhaj the Mirza Bashirud in Mahmud Ahmad, the head of the Ahmadia movement in Islam, who is to represent Islam at the forthcoming conference of religions of the Empire at Wembley, arrived at Victoria Station, London, on August 22. Owing to a misunderstanding, the Khalifa arrived at a time when half of those who were to have assembled to welcome him were absent. Those present, however, joined him in saying prayer, and, the baggage having been put in charge of one member of the party, they moved off to Ludgate Hill, and thence to St. Paul's Churchyard. This was done to fulfil a tradition with Mohammedans which says that after coming from Damascus the Mahadi will pray at the "Bab-el-Lud," i.e., Ludgate. The Khalifa called at Damascus on his way to England. From Ludgate his Holiness went to Chesham Place, where he is staying during his visit to London. He also proposes to visit Brighton to see the memorial erected there to Mohammedan soldiers who fell during the War.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The Trade Outlook.

The period that has elapsed since the conclusion of the London Conference has served to bring into clearer relief the perilous position in which our trade may be placed as a result of a resuscitated Germany, and it is not too much to say that there is now widespread anxiety as to the outlook, which has not been lessened by the knowledge that it is evidently fully shared in official circles. The warning of the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the danger of the proposed Franco-German commercial agreement, followed by the decision of the Government to appoint an Advisory Committee to watch trade developments on the Continent have served to crystallise attention on the situation. It has, of course, been foreseen for years that a European settlement would bring us face to face with the present problem, but, as I pointed out last week, there could be no hope for the expansion of British commerce while the Continent was still in a state of unrest. If, however, we are to profit to any extent by the trade revival, which may now be expected to ensue, the situation will very evidently need most careful handling, and it may be that the solution will have to be sought in a direction against which the majority of the electorate has hitherto resolutely set its face. But the times are obviously such that it would be foolish to insist on adherence to any economic theory, if there is at least a possibility that its modification or temporary abandonment may provide the remedy for conditions which would appear at the moment to threaten an increase rather than a reduction of unemployment.

Back to Pre-War Competition.

There are, shortly, two new factors that have to be envisaged—the development of German competition and the proposed agreement to which I have referred. For reasons which are obvious, Germany has been unable since 1918 to make any great progress in foreign trade, though signs have not been wanting, especially in the Near East, that she has been doing everything possible to prepare the way for future commercial development on the aggressive lines that marked her pre-War trade policy. The result of the Conference is to bring within sight the time when Germany will be enabled to resume her pre-War competition. If the respective conditions in Great Britain and Germany were the same as before the War, it would be possible for us to view the outcome with comparative equanimity, but they are manifestly unfavourable from our point of view, both as regards hours of labour and the exchanges, and it is very evident that Germany will be in a position, as things are at present, to undersell British goods in foreign markets. The problem is one which affects other countries besides ourselves—in particular, the United States, but the fact that we are not isolated in the matter is a small consolation, for to us more than to any other country the development of overseas trade is a paramount necessity. As I have suggested before, we are not now in a position blindly to follow any economic theory oblivious of the consequences, and it will be a strange outcome of the situation if external pressure should result in the adoption in some measure of a protective tariff. It is, indeed, difficult to see by what other way British trade interests can be adequately safeguarded.

Sudan Trade Expansion.

The trade statistics of the Sudan for the first five months of the current year make a wonderfully good showing. The value of the imports is £E2,271,766, as compared with £E1,761,082 for the corresponding period of 1923, while the value of the exports has risen from £E1,310,270 to £E1,932,430, while the re-exports stand at £E86,391, as against £E42,308. There is an increase in the volume of trade of no less than £E1,170,678, while it is significant that there is a marked decrease in the adverse balance of trade. Great Britain is easily first among the Sudan's customers, with 66.5 per cent. of the exports, and is also first in the list of countries from whom the Sudan draws its supplies, but in this case the percentage is only 34.8. Cotton was, of course, responsible for the development of the export trade; 124,152 kantars were exported during the five months, as compared with 53,983 for 1923, the respective values being £E981,100 and £E203,879.

The Palestine Trade Position.

I have just received a copy of a report submitted by the Haifa Chamber of Commerce to the Palestine Government drawing attention to the adverse economic position of the country. It is emphasised that commerce began to be affected as soon as Customs barriers were established on the Syrian frontier, the effect of which was that trade was diverted to Beyrout. The report also draws attention to the proposed imposition of a 25 per cent. increase on freight rates on the El-Hamme-Damascus line, which, it is maintained, is designed by the French authorities further to divert trade to the above-mentioned port. It is suggested that the consequence will be that Palestine will be obliged to export its products to the hinterland viâ Beyrout, and that, *inter alia*, much less traffic will be carried on the Haifa-Semakh line.

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THE LIUBLIANA SAMPLES FAIR.

(From Our Liubliana Correspondent.)

Liubliana, August 21.

This year's Liubliana Fair is, in the main, a replica of its predecessors. The wisdom of the Fair Committee in deciding to hold it in August instead of September has been justified by better luck as regards the weather, and visitors to the fair, besides transacting business, are making the most of their opportunity of seeing something of the beauties of Alpine Slovenia.

There are a few new features, the most interesting of which is the pavilion taken by the Slovene Alpine and Hunters' Societies for the purpose of advertising Slovenia's possibilities as regards sport and mountain climbing. There is a great display of antlers and chamois horns, and there are fine specimens of blackcock and capercailzie and the various fur-bearing animals in the country.

The Slovene Alps are rich in chamois, and the writer, quite recently, while going for a quiet ramble over the Kamnik Alps, surprised a herd of some thirty head of these graceful wild goats at quite close quarters. The rare steinbock, too, may be seen occasionally, but he is strictly protected.

A very interesting exhibit in the pavilion is the collection of specimens of birds protected by law, and of flowers to be gathered sparingly. Among the birds are to be noticed the larger and finer birds of prey—the golden eagle conspicuous among them—beautiful creatures, whose usefulness far outweighs any damage they may do. The Slovenes are justly proud of the natural beauties of their country, and as a further step towards safeguarding its rarer fauna and flora, the finest of the Triglav valleys—the Valley of the Seven Lakes—has recently been set apart for enclosure as a national park.

Another novel feature is the stall occupied by the Blighty Industries Association, where Scotch tweeds, homespuns, and tartan rugs are, for the first time, being exhibited in this country. The stall is quite one of the best arranged in the fair, and the whole exhibit is attracting much favourable attention. Apart from this, British goods are just a little more in evidence than on former occasions. There is a British motor-car (Salmonson) on view; there are several B.S.A. and Humber ordinary and motor bicycles, and Messrs. A. A. Baker (spirits and tea) occupy their own stand.

The fair as a whole provides further evidence of progress in most branches of native industries.

THE PRAGUE SAMPLES FAIR.

A correspondent writes:—The metal and engineering section of the Prague Autumn Fair (September 21-28) is the largest of the twenty-two branches of exhibits which will be represented there. Machinery and plant for the various industries will be exhibited by 101 firms; agricultural machinery and implements by 36; motor-cars, motor-cycles, and accessories by 39; instruments and tools for industries by 20; safes, scales, weighing machines, locks, etc., by 68; and lamps, cutlery, and household utensils by 53. The firms exhibiting electrical instruments, apparatus, plant, and accessories number 62. Visitors to the fair, on production of their fair tickets, are granted reductions of fares on the Czecho-Slovak, the Yugoslav, and Roumanian Railways.

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British Consular Reports.

VI.—YUGOSLAVIA.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation, Belgrade (Captain E. Murray Harvey, O.B.E., M.C.), on the economic and industrial conditions in Yugoslavia in 1923 :—

In reviewing the economic development of the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom during the year 1923, the two outstanding features are the policy of deflation inaugurated by the present Minister of Finance and the monetary stringency which has been experienced and has now reached an acute stage. This latter symptom is attributed by some to the refusal of the Minister of Finance and the governors of the National Bank to increase the note circulation.

As a result of the above-mentioned deflation policy the dinar very soon recovered from the unsettling effect of the cessation at the end of 1922 of "pegging" operations; it has maintained its foreign exchange value throughout the year, and has shown a tendency to appreciate in terms of foreign currencies.

In spite of repeated appeals from banking and industrial interests, the Minister of Finance has refused to print more notes. A proposal was put forward by a conference of the Zagreb and Liubliana banks that, "in order to take full advantage of the harvest, and in the absence of any hope of immediate assistance from foreign credits, the note circulation should be increased by 500,000,000 dinars on the basis of bills given by the merchants, liquidation to be guaranteed by the National Bank by the spring of 1924." This was similarly resisted. Other contributory causes of the monetary shortage frequently referred to are the hoarding of notes by the peasants, the large sums being spent on building, and the restriction of seasonal (exporting) and general credits granted by the National Bank.

Abnormally high rates of interest are demanded and obtained in respect of loans required for urgent needs, such as the completion of partly finished buildings, and in extreme cases 30, 40, and even 50 per cent. has been paid for financial accommodation. There are now signs that the rates of interest exacted by financial institutions are being decreased. This is probably due to the deflation policy and the resultant "stabilisation" of the national currency; for while high rates of interest are a natural concomitant of loans granted in a depreciating currency, the converse is also true, and after appreciation reduction in rates of interest is to be expected.

Agriculture.

The optimistic forecasts for the harvest of 1923 were in many respects fulfilled. A conference of Chambers of Commerce and Exporters' Associations was held at Belgrade in August, at which experts from all parts of the country assisted, and an attempt was made to form an estimate of the yield of the year's crops and of the exportable surplus. According to the experts' reports, based upon the state of the crops, the following quantities of produce would be exported during the year commencing September 1, 1923: 35,000 wagons of wheat (value 1,200,000 dinars), 30,000 wagons of maize, 3,000 of oats, barley, and rye, and 2,000 of beans. The total value of these was estimated at 2,095,000,000 dinars. The first export statistics have not, however, confirmed these estimates. From the commencement of the export season—that is, from September 1 to October 31—only 2,500 tons of wheat were exported and 800 tons of other cereals. But naturally the export for the whole year cannot be judged by these figures. It happened that the price of wheat fell very heavily at this time (by 35 per cent.), and it was to be expected that the exports would wait for a rise in prices.

The Minister of Finance's estimate of the production of 1923, which is confirmed by the still incomplete statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture, is probably fairly accurate. It is as follows (in quintals): Wheat, 16,844,701; barley, 3,119,304; rye, 1,501,844; oats, 2,809,167; meslin, 308,610; bearded wheat, 129,918; maize, 20,181,243.

In order to improve the quality of cereals in 1923, the Ministry of Agriculture issued regulations concerning the establishment and maintenance of stations for the cleaning and sorting of wheat for sale and the preparation of seed corn, to be established near the markets. One hundred and forty of these have already been installed.

An inquiry was held by the Ministry of Agriculture with a view to collecting data on the use of artificial manures, it being thought that fertilisers are not utilised in sufficient quantity. In 1923, 3,164 wagons of artificial manure were used, and in 1922 only 1,453. Superphosphate is chiefly used (in 1923, 2,752 wagons, and in 1922, 1,920); then nitrates (in 1923, 207 wagons, and in 1922, 108) and other fertilisers (in 1923, 176 wagons, and in 1922, 38). The use of artificial fertilisers is greatest in the Vojvodina (in 1922, 854 wagons) and least in Serbia (8 wagons in 1922). Croatia and Slavonia used 262, and Slovenia 120 wagons.

The inquiry led to the conclusion that more technical education and much propaganda are necessary. District agricultural stations should be established to examine local conditions, and fertilisers

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should be distributed through agricultural associations. Commerce in artificial fertilisers should be regulated, and prices and quality controlled. The importation of artificial fertilisers is free from Customs dues. Mineral superphosphates may be freed from duty on the consent of the Minister of Commerce and Industry. It is thought that the Government should give assistance by reducing tariffs for the transport of raw materials, by the prohibition of the exportation of raw materials, by endeavouring to obtain the reduction of shipping tariffs for the transport of phosphates and the application of special railway freight rates for fertilisers.

Fruit.

It is claimed that the 1923 plum harvest was greater than that of any of the years since the War, and that the quality was better. The Congress of Chambers of Commerce and Exporters' Associations anticipated a surplus for export of 5,500 wagons of a value of 198,000,000 dinars. This will probably be realised. In a single month, from September 15 to October 15, 2,000 wagons of prunes were exported. It is now considered that about 6,500 wagons of prunes will be available for export. Although the prunes are not of the largest, prices have risen, partly owing to the great demand in Poland. The Government has subsidised the erection of good drying ovens for prunes.

Although plums are the most important of the fruits cultivated, large quantities of apples, pears, olives, walnuts, and chestnuts are also produced for export. The total value of fruits exported in 1923 is estimated at over 250,000,000 dinars; 850 wagons of apples, 50 wagons of walnuts, and 50 of chestnuts are included in the estimate.

Wine

The wine trade situation has not improved, there still being enormous quantities of wine in the country for which no market can be found. The commercial treaty with Poland is likely to assist matters in this respect, but its results will not be felt for some time. On account of the surplus of wine it has been decided not to encourage the planting of vineyards in districts where other crops can be successfully cultivated, in order that the purely wine-growing districts, where the best wines are produced, may have greater encouragement.

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Viticulture stations are to be established for chemical analysis and bacteriology of wines and examination of the diseases of vines. Special courses of instruction in viticulture will be held. Wine-growers' co-operative societies are being instituted, which will receive Government subsidy and certain privileges in the matter of transport, etc. An order has been made in accordance with which the poorer qualities of vines are to be eliminated and replaced by good ones within a period of five years.

Industry.

The general monetary stringency experienced in Yugoslavia during 1923 weighed heavily upon the country's industries. Credits, as already stated, were extremely difficult to obtain, and abnormal rates of interest were demanded. The effect of the "dumping" of Czech, German, and Italian goods was also felt. For the first time since the War unemployment has appeared, although not yet to any serious extent.

In spite, however, of these difficulties a number of new industrial enterprises, mostly on a small scale, were established, such as tanneries, sawmills, flour-mills, wagon works, etc. Most of the industrial enterprises, with the exception of sawmills, flour-mills and meat-preserving factories, work almost exclusively for the home trade.

The capital invested in industries established previously to the war is still to a considerable extent Austrian and Hungarian; a proportion of the capital invested in manufacturing undertakings since the Armistice has been found in Czecho-Slovakia. Hitherto most of the skilled work in Yugoslav factories has been performed by foreigners; efforts are now being made to replace these workers by S.C.S. nationals, and manufacturers have been officially approached with the request to train as many as possible of the Yugoslavs with a view to eliminating the foreign element. Endeavours are being made to raise a foreign loan for the financial needs of the Yugoslav industries; but these have so far been unsuccessful.

Production of Beet Sugar.

A great deal is being done to encourage the cultivation of sugar beet in Yugoslavia, and the area sown with this crop has shown a steady increase since 1920, when it amounted to 15,000 hectares, while in 1923 24,000 hectares were planted. About 30,000 tons of sugar were manufactured in 1923. The capacity of the Yugoslav sugar factories is about 100,000 to 120,000 tons per annum. Home consumption absorbing 60,000 tons, it would be possible, working at full capacity, to export 50,000 to 60,000 tons yearly. Conferences have been held at which measures to be taken in order to increase the production of sugar beet were discussed, and the following resolution was made:—"That a consultative commission of representatives of the growers and manufacturers should be appointed at the Ministry of Agriculture and Waters which would control culture, manufacture, and prices. It was decided to encourage, by privileges given to the agricultural co-operatives, the growing of beet by the peasants. As concerns large estates, the view was that the proprietors should undertake to cultivate beet on that part of their land left to them above the maximum allowed by the Agrarian Reform Law." The conference demanded the increase of the Customs duty on sugar by two dinars per kilogramme; the granting of a delay of three months to the factories for the payment of the consumption tax; and the construction of special lines for bringing the beetroot to the factories.

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Near East Markets.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. report as follows for the week ended August 16 :—

The arrivals of sultanas on the Smyrna market are estimated at 1,600 tons, and the sales to date are put at 1,575 tons. The market all this week has been jumpy, fluctuating up and down under the influence of unsettled weather. Buyers have been inclined to rush their purchases, and the market has been cleared daily of all arrivals coming forward. The next fifteen days are a very critical period, as the bulk of the crop will be then exposed on the drying sheds. Rain would cause damage to quality, but would not reduce the extent of the yield.

ADVERSE CONDITIONS IN PERSIA.

The following extracts are taken from a report received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank from Teheran dated June 28 :—

Crops have been particularly heavy this year throughout the north and west of Persia. The supply exceeds the local demand in the country districts, and, owing to the prohibitive cost of transport and the greatly reduced value of grain, it is impracticable to bring grain into the towns except from the immediate neighbourhood. The price in the larger towns is controlled by Government. The export of grain is forbidden, as the Government are always fearful of a famine, of which they have had unhappy experience in the past. The consequence of this state of affairs is that the landowner finds his revenues largely decreased, whilst the peasant, after disposing of his crops, has only sufficient money for the bare necessities of life, and has nothing left to spend on imported goods. The result is stagnation of trade in the bazaars, and consequent lack of ready money.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

The report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for June gives the following particulars :—

Gum.

The exports in June viâ Port Sudan were as follows (the values being given in parentheses) :—bleached 43 tons (£E3,134) ; hashab 1,708 tons (£E73,052) ; talh 352 tons (£E8,513).

Kassala Province.—Gum hashab reached 715 m/ms. in Gedaref and 550 m/ms. in Mefaza. Talh reached 306 m/ms. in Gedaref and 366 m/ms. in Mefaza. From the middle of June no more gum has been brought into the market.

Kordofan Province.—20,126 kantars were sold in El Obeid market during June, as against 25,333 kantars during the same month last year. The average price was £E1,005 m/ms. per kantar. The arrivals at El Obeid from Nahud during the month were 9,876 kantars, as against 5,792 kantars during the same month last year. The amount sold at Nahud during the month was 18,037 kantars, as against 6,846 kantars during the same month last year. The average price being 855 m/ms. per kantar. 1,152 kantars were sold at Um Ruaba at an average price of 947 m/ms. per kantar, as against 822 kantars during the same month last year. At Rahad 60 kantars were sold at an average price of 898 m/ms., as against 66 kantars during the same month last year.

Cotton.

Mongalla Province.—A considerable amount of cotton seed has been issued to the people of Moru, Latuka, Rejaf and Yei Districts. It is believed that cotton can be successfully grown anywhere in the Province away from the river.

Kassala Province.—The total crop for the 1923-1924 season is 10,157 kantars of 315 rottles, and the total area approximately 9,000 feddans.

Berber Province.—Mikeilab, May : 27 kantars of 315 rottles of cotton were brought in during the month, the total to end of May being 850 kantars, of which 15 kantars were zakia cotton. The average yield up to the end of May is 3.6 kantars. Bouga, June : final figures show that the cotton crop for the season was 3,226 kantars of 315 rottles, or an average yield of 4.30 kantars per feddan. Gendettu, June : the final cotton yield for the season is 2,581 kantars of 315 rottles, or an average of 3.89 kantars per feddan.

Red Sea Province.—Tokar : the cotton market opened on March 16 and closed on June 16. Buyers were plentiful, and competition brisk. Good prices were obtained from the beginning, P.T. 774 per kantar of 315 rottles seed cotton having been paid on the opening day for T.C.I. cotton. Prices steadily rose to the maximum of P.T. 918 per kantar by the middle of May. The average price throughout the market for all classes of cotton was P.T. 817 per kantar. The total crop of 65,803 kantars of 315 rottles was classified as follows :—1st class, 51,239, or 77.86 per cent. ; 2nd class, 12,355, or 18.78 per cent. ; 3rd class, 1,976, or 3.01 per cent. ; 4th class, 233, or .35 per cent. The total value of the crop was £E537,390.571 m/ms.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	246-248
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	361-367
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	23.98-24.00
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5¼-1.5 5/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	90
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	975-985
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	340-350,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5¼-1.5 5/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	833-843
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.51
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	82.70
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	149⅞
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	101½-101¾
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	615-625
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	318-322,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	—	23.30-23.50

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Engineering Topics.

Dunlop Cord Balloon Tyres.

Although it is generally known that the Dunlop Rubber Company is no whit behind its competitors, British and foreign, in the production of balloon tyres, some surprise has not unnaturally been expressed at the apparent delay in making public the company's full intention. Actually whilst the tyres have been in production for quite a considerable length of time, the demands of the chassis manufacturers have so far more than absorbed the output. Rather than occasion disappointment to those motorists anxious to convert their tyre and wheel equipment, the company has thought it wise not to advertise the balloon tyre at a time when reasonable deliveries could not be guaranteed. This position, it may be remarked, exists to-day, but every effort has been, and is being, exerted to cope with the demand, with the result that the company is now within sight of meeting all demands.

Again, too, the Dunlop Company felt that in the position occupied by them in the industry, it would be inadvisable to go too far or too fast in the production of tyres differing so widely in principle from accepted standards until the merits of every type had been thoroughly investigated. That this policy was amply justified is demonstrated by one or two significant facts. For instance, the original balloon tyres as produced abroad were of an exaggerated character, and the Dunlop Company, which has had practical tests in process since 1917, formed the opinion that considerable modifications in size would be necessary before final adoption. This has actually proved to be the case.

Then, again, they had to choose between the beaded edge and wired-on types of tyre. Then chassis manufacturers, the bulk of whom standardise Dunlop productions, had to be consulted and their techical requirements fully provided for. Finally, a decision was arrived at based on the unanswerable argument that a tyre designed to be run at extremely low pressures should be independent of the inflation pressure for its retention upon the rim. This theory was exhaustively tested and has completely proved its inherent soundness in practice. Hence the Dunlop balloon tyre is of the wired type, and, unlike beaded edge tyres, which are essentially inflation held, is retained on the rim by virtue of its inextensible wire edges being smaller in circumference than the lips of the rim.

Now, in this respect it is identical with the straight side type of tyre, the adoption of which in this country has been delayed, chiefly because of its higher initial cost. In balloon tyre practice, however, this difficulty can be removed, and a tyre constructed on straight side principles offered for the first time at a price no higher than that of a beaded edge tyre of the same nominal size and capacity. The Dunlop balloon tyre, it should be remarked, is used in conjunction with a well base rim made in a single piece, in which the necessary strength can be provided by a much lighter construction, and which provides an extremely simple means of fitting and detaching the tyre. The construction also permits the tyre valve to come through the side of the rim—a feature which will be much appreciated when it is remembered that the actual diameter of the wheel is very small, and that there is an increasing tendency towards the adoption of larger brake drums and front wheel brakes.

The following sizes, which are recommended S.M.M.T. practice, have been adopted by the Dunlop Company :—27 x 4.40, 28 x 4.95, 29 x 4.95, 30 x 5.25, 32 x 5.25, 32 x 6.20, 34 x 7.30. It should be added that the essential dimensions of this well base rim are so arranged that Dunlop balloon tyres are interchangeable on American balloon tyre rims —an important consideration in dealing with international requirements. The tyre itself is, of course, made upon much the same principles as the famous Dunlop cord of normal sections, and in its construction is used the most perfect cord material yet made, produced at the company's own cotton mills. The quality of the rubber used is identical with standard Dunlop practice, and the tread provided is essentially of the same thickness and width as that of the normal tyre displaced. This latter is an important point, inasmuch as the area of contact with the ground is increased by lengthening rather than widening. A long and comparatively narrow contact area is favourable to the prevention of skidding. The tubes provided for Dunlop balloon tyres are moulded to shape and fit the covers so exactly that all parts of the tube walls are equally stretched in use.

One of the most vitally important points with regard to balloon tyres is the inflation. With low pressure tyres the margin of error possible without adversely affecting the performance of both car and tyres is very small, so that for best results the makers' recommended pressures for the applied loads must be adopted and maintained. With balloon tyres it is just as important to avoid too high inflation pressures as it is to guard against too low pressures. High pressures in these large tyres impose tremendous strains on the cords, and may result in early failure. Besides, at high pressures balloon tyres have far less cushioning than the smaller high pressure tyres. The ordinary tester being insufficiently sensitive, the Dunlop Company has produced a new type which registers extremely low pressures with accuracy. It is provided with a neat dashboard fitting to ensure that it is readily accessible at any time. Other Dunlop accessories specially designed for use with Dunlop balloon tyres are a simple lever—the only tool necessary for the operations of fitting and removing—a unique twin-stroke foot pump, and a new jack. The fact should not be lost sight of that jacks provided for use with normal tyres are seldom suitable for balloon equipment. What is required is something that is smaller when closed, owing to the greater "drop" of the tyre and capable of lifting higher.

It should be added that whilst providing a comprehensive range of its balloon tyres in the wired type, the Dunlop Company is, in addition, producing a 31 x 4.40 in. beaded edge balloon tyre, intended to displace the 30 x 3½ in. tyre without alteration to rims.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

An Irregular Tone.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended August 14, state :—

The market during the past week has been very irregular. The net changes since our last report are :—Sakellaridis : $1.28 up for November, $1.06 up for January. Ashmouni : $0.20 down for August, $0.35 down for October, $0.25 down for December, $0.30 down for February. The volume of business has been fairly large, but, as has been the case for some time past, the greater part of the operations has been for speculators' account. Vague reports of Sakel crop damage have induced new speculative purchases; no definite information as to the damage is available, and the increase of the speculative interest on such a frail foundation constitutes an element of danger, and should the reported crop damage not materialise, or should we get a break in American prices, a serious decline might easily be provoked here. For the time being, however, prices are quite firm. The week's receipts amount to 2,270 krs., against exports 40,042 krs.; the stock stands at 301,355 krs. The consumption figures of cotton in the U.S.A. for the month of July are B/s 347,000, against B/s 350,000 the previous month and B/s 462,000 a year ago. The total since August 1, 1923, is B/s 5,672,000, against B/s 6,664,000 the previous season.

Spot.—Total sales during the week amount to about 3,400 B/s, of which we estimate 2,700 B/s Sakel and 700 B/s uppers, 147 B/s being new crop cotton.

Sakellaridis : The demand has been concentrated on good fair, good fair to fully good fair, and fully good fair. The grades G.F. to F.G.F. and F.G.F. have now become very scarce; in fact, it is practically impossible to find such cotton in the market, and, consequently, when a lot does appear, there is big competition to obtain it. Very little business has been done in the higher grades, but prices, as compared with contracts, are somewhat dearer. There has been a small demand for cotton below good fair; the prices for these grades are somewhat stiffer.

Uppers.—The first arrivals of new crop cotton appeared on the market on Wednesday, and were immediately snapped up at fantastic prices. With regard to old crop, all grades from fair to fully good fair have been dealt in, although, as shown by the total turnover, the business has been of a retail character. The price of spot as compared with contracts is unchanged.

Crop 1924.—In spite of market rumours, there is very little of actual importance to say on the growing crop. The uppers crop is maturing very well, and will probably fulfil the early promise of a record crop. The crops in the Delta are progressing quite weli. There has been some shedding and withering of bolls, due to damp followed by excessive heat, but not to any serious extent. Pink boll worm attack is, in certain districts, somewhat heavier than last year, and it is noticeable that many of the Zagora fields in Menoufia and the southern districts of Gharbieh and Dakahlieh have now been attacked equally with the less matured Sakel. August and September are the critical months of the pink boll worm attack, and one must not lose sight of the fact that a heavy attack would affect the Sakel position considerably in view of the already reduced prospective supply for next season; for the time being, however, the attack is not heavy. Temperature has been variable.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Improvement in Business.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended August 23 states :—

A more cheerful atmosphere has prevailed during the week than for a considerable time past. Not only has the volume of inquiry continued to extend, but the actual business transacted has shown a decided increase. This is in a large measure the result of a growing belief that lower cotton prices have come to stay, a condition of things which can hardly fail to result in an all-round expansion of business.

Yarn.—The demand for both American and Egyptian qualities has broadened, particularly as regards the former. The position of spinners has been strengthened to no small extent by the check given to the accumulation of stocks owing to the holiday stoppages. Better orders are reported, in particular for India and the Near East. Speaking generally, the reduction in the price of yarns during the week is about $\frac{3}{8}$d. per lb. This is considerably less than the relative reduction in raw cotton values.

Cloth.—The turnover in the cloth section has been distinctly encouraging, and not for many weeks past have manufacturers booked so many orders. As regards individual overseas markets, the chief has undoubtedly been India, with Calcutta and Madras prominent buyers. China has been active, and a fair volume of orders has been put through for Egypt and the Levant. Central and South America have not been idle, but transactions there have been on a somewhat smaller scale. It is too soon yet to say whether the improvement has come to stop, but manufacturers are adopting a stiffer attitude, and evidence continues to be forthcoming that markets abroad are badly in need of goods.

Raw Cotton.—Renewed reports of good weather in the American cotton-growing centres have resulted in further reductions in quotations. A total yield of 14,000,000 bales, including linters, is freely talked about. This, coupled with the absence of the usual reports about damage by boll-weevil, is thought to indicate still lower prices. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows :—American Middling, 16.08; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 25.55.

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LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Conditions Practically Unchanged.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 20 :—

Egyptian Spot.—Conditions remain practically unchanged in our market since last we wrote. Spinners are buying as little as they possibly can, consistent with keeping their mills running. At the moment the opinion that lower prices are inevitable appears to be gaining ground in most quarters, although it is realised that fluctuations of considerable magnitude are bound to occur before the actual size and quality of the various crops can be finally estimated. Hence, sellers are anxious to take advantage of ruling prices, and the basis all round has continued to ease, particularly in the case of Uppers, spot, prompt, and new crop. A really first-class crop of Upper Egyptian appears almost a certainty, and many shippers have already accepted this view and have sold for Early September shipment at prices with which their more conservative competitors are quite unable to compete. The low qualities have been practically exhausted here.

In Sakellaridis the usual inquiry has continued. Cotton from 20d. to 21d. has been freely inquired for, and a good supply still appears to be available. The next range in order of popularity has been 24d. to 24½d., followed by 250 to 325 on August. Interest in Sudan Sakel and Tokar Sakel has been well maintained, and a steady business has resulted. Holders of Tokar Sakel are inclined to meet buyers, and TIC cotton has changed hands this week at prices ranging from 27d. to 26d. White Sudan and Brown cotton have been neglected. C.i.f. business for prompt shipment has been quiet, but a fair amount of activity—not always resulting in business—has been evident in new crops. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending August 15 were returned as 6,608 bales. Estimated sales, 1,600 Egypts and 1,550 Sudan. Quotations of Sakellaridis are reduced 55 points on the week; those of Upper and Brown are 100 points lower. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 25.40d.

PROTEST AGAINST LOAN TO RUSSIA.

The Council of the London Chamber of Commerce, at its meeting on August 21, unanimously adopted the following resolution :—

"That the Council of the London Chamber of Commerce records its strong disapprobation of the proposed Treaty between His Majesty's Government and the Union of Soviet Republics in Russia. It desires to reiterate the view it has expressed on many occasions—that no agreement with Soviet Russia can be satisfactory to this country which does not provide for a settlement of the trade debts due by Russian nationals to British subjects, and that the claims of the Governments against one another should be kept separate and distinct from the claims of the nationals of the two countries.

"That this Council particularly disapproves of the proposal that the British Government should be in any way responsible for a loan to Russia."

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

African and Eastern.

The report of the African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd., for 1923 shows a profit of £442,353, after the usual provision for depreciation, and adding the balance of £242,394 brought forward the total available is £684,746. The preference dividend absorbs £133,798, and after allocating £25,000 to the depreciation fund, £25,000 to income-tax reserve, £7,500 to the superannuation fund, and £2,500 for depreciation of office fittings, there remains a disposable balance of £490,947. The directors recommend a final dividend of 4 per cent., less tax, payable October 1, making 8 per cent., leaving to be carried forward £271,985.

National Bank of Egypt.

Position at June 30, 1924, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes. Banking Department. Liabilities.—Share capital (300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each), £E2,925,000; Reserve Fund: statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E804,375; current, deposit, and other accounts, £E13,168,344; Egyptian Government, £E12,902,948; Sudan Government, £E647,996; Mixed Tribunals, £E1,445,338; bankers accounts, £E267,338; cheques and bills payable, £E255,258; sundry other accounts, £E697,631—£E34,576,728. Assets.—Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E22,041,537; sundry securities, £E255,621; advances on merchandise, £E601,682; advances on securities, £E1,960,083; advances otherwise secured, £E322,206; sundry other advances, £E409,545; bills of exchange, £2,132,316; local bills discounted, £E347,613; buildings and furniture, £E274,241; money at call and at short notice, £E848,250; bankers accounts, £E3,400,380; sundry other accounts, £E164,887. Cash: Notes, £E1,144,562; gold, £E22,416; silver, nickel, etc., £E651,389—£E1,818,367—£E34,576,728. Issue Department.—Notes issued, £E29,200,000. Gold, £E3,339,576; *British Treasury Bills, £E11,260,424—£E14,600,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E420,576; British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds, £E14,179,424—£E14,600,000—£E29,200,000.

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Motor Boats.—The Coastguards and Fisheries Service, Governorate Buildings, Alexandria, invites tenders for the construction of two coastal motor boats. September 15.

Telephones.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 500 wall telephones. October 1.

Turkey.

Wire.—The Direction Générale, des Postes et Telegraphes, Stamboul, invites tenders for the supply of 25 tons of galvanised wire. (D.O.T.)

Czecho-Slovakia.

Locomotives, etc.—A new scheme is being undertaken by the Czecho-Slovak Government for the electrification of the State Railways, and tenders are invited by the Czecho-Slovak, Ministry of Railways for locomotives and materials in connection with the project. October 21. (D.O.T.)

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BRATISLAVA TRADE FAIR.

(From a Correspondent.)

The fourth International Danube Fair was opened at Bratislava on August 23, and continues until September 2. In addition to the ordinary sections, this fair includes a number of special exhibitions—for example, a timber exhibition, covering a space of 2,000 sq. metres; a railway exhibition (3,000 sq. metres); a postal exhibition; an aircraft exhibition; a public works exhibition; an exhibition arranged by the French Consulate; and a fruit and dairy show arranged by the Slovak Agricultural Council. Among the ordinary exhibits a special place is taken by agricultural machinery, which is an important item of Czecho-Slovak export trade viâ Bratislava to the South-eastern and Balkan countries. Simultaneously with the fair several congresses are being held at Bratislava, notably a Water Power Congress.

Bratislava, as one of the leading Danube ports, and as perhaps the most favourably situated to be the centre of trade between the agricultural East and the industrial West, has already attracted European and even overseas attention by its three previous fairs. The port itself is rapidly increasing its volume of trade, and that of the first seven months of the current year surpassed the figures for the whole of 1923. Western merchants in particular, whether buyers or sellers, would find in many respects a new and lucrative field for their activities by a visit to Bratislava. It has now been decided to hold a fair every year on the same date.

EGYPTIAN DYESTUFFS MARKET.

Increasing German Competition.

Egypt is essentially conservative in all its industrial processes, and its dyeing industry is no exception to the rule. There are, nevertheless, more than 23,000 dye works scattered throughout the country, and the distribution of dyestuffs is comparatively highly developed (says an American Consular report). The actual dyeing process, however, is still carried on in a very primitive manner, with a surprising lack of centralisation. In fact, every Egyptian village of any importance can boast of its own establishments, where cotton goods are coloured to the taste of the fellaheen.

The Egyptian taste for bright colours is highly developed, but is confined to clothes of men and children only. Black alone is prescribed for women. Varieties of black, according to estimates, constitute about 65 per cent. of the colours consumed in Egypt, with blue a good second, as the larger proportion of the fellaheen wear blue cotton gallabieh. Synthetic indigo, according to the official import statistics, accounts for at least 50 per cent. of the valuation of Egypt's dyestuffs consumption.

In 1913 dyestuffs to the value of £E68,381 were imported, Germany being the only source. The total imports in 1920 amounted to £E123,068, of which Great Britain supplied £E20,314; Germany, £E85,335; and Switzerland, £E17,101. German dyes replaced the British product in the Egyptian market during 1921 and 1922, and the Swiss imports fell off markedly. During 1923, however, over 2,000 kilos of British indigo were brought into the market, and Switzerland, in furnishing 121,228 kilos, supplied almost half the total requirements. Imports from Germany amounted to but 104,571 kilos, or much less than half the business of the previous year. German activities have developed greatly during recent years, and it is generally thought that but for the economic and political difficulties under which German firms have been working since the Ruhr occupation they would have completely recaptured the market.

The total value of the Egyptian imports of indigo in 1923 amounted to £E65,362, and of other coal-tar dyes to £E34,548.

German business terms are strictly cash, and the more important German manufacturers have their own technical agents in the market to assist local importers who carry spot stocks. As a matter of fact, only in the past few months has Germany been showing its firm intention of dominating the Egyptian dyestuffs market once more. Consequently, the market bears very close watching now and in the immediate future.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Macharda for Calcutta (Liverpool, September 4); s.s. Malia for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 6).

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 8).

British India Line.—S.s. Mantola for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 30); s.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 12); s.s. Mandala for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 13).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Colquhoun for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, September 3).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Eastbourne for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 4); s.s. City of Exeter for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 15).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Syra, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 6); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Bourgas, Sulina, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 20).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, September 5); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcuttta (London, September 6); s.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London, September 19).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Polo for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (London, September 6).

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - - - £390,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia:— Chief Office, TEHERAN.
Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdah, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office : 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4 ; Chief Office in Persia : TEHERAN

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In Egypt the Bank's principal office is at Alexandria ; but it also has agencies throughout the cotton-growing districts, and specialises in all operations connected with the moving of the cotton crop.

In Turkey the Bank has a branch at Constantinople.

For information as to terms of business, etc., apply to the HEAD OFFICE :

BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE ST., LONDON, E.C.2.

Authorised Capital - - - - £600,000
Paid-up Capital - - - - £485,580
Reserve - - - - - - - £170,000

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CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
S. A. H. SITWELL, Esq.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq., Offg.

London Manager:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.

Authorised Capital - - Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - - Rs. 5.62.50.000
Reserve - - - - - - Rs. 4.45.00.000

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London Branch: 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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Subscribed Capital ... ... £4,000,000 | Reserve Fund £2,750,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

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Aden, Aden, Steamer Point, Amritsar, Bombay, Calcuttta, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Cochin (S. India), Colombo, Delhi, Kandy, Karachi, Lahore, Madras, Mandalay, Newera Eliya, Rangoon, Tuticorin, Zanzibar, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru (Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)), Entebbe, Jinia, Kampala (Uganda)

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The Bank purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.

The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.

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RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 18,103,997

The assets include securities worth £800,000, which are valued at Drs. 20,000,000; that is, at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

Head Office: ATHENS.

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Head Office: ATHENS.

ESTABLISHED 1893

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38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

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Managers—J. S. BRUCE and G. MILLER.

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AMRITSAR	HAIPHONG	MANILA	SHANGHAI
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BATAVIA	HANKOW	NEW YORK	SOURABAYA
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	PEKING	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PENANG	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
CANTON	IPOH	PUKET	TIENTSIN
CAWNPORE	KARACHI	RANGOON	TOKYO
CEBU	KLANG	SAIGON	YOKOHAMA
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WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED.
NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.
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The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts and transact general business connected with the East, **DEPOSITS OF MONEY** are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. **Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.**

The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

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Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £340,000

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors:

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G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
J. H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
MEYER SASSOON, Esq.
SIR PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

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F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

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(Affiliated with Barclays Bank, Ltd.).

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. **PALESTINE.**—Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nazareth. **MEDITERRANEAN.**—Malta, Gibraltar.

Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000
Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000
Reserve - - - - - - - £720,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - - - - - £3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - - £2,325,000

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TELEPHONE—626

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KASHGAR.....	9,000 ...	Aug. 29 ..	— ...	Straits, China, Japan
*MOOLTAN ...	21,000 ...	Aug. 29...	Sept. 5 ...	Colombo & Australia
CHINA	8,000 ...	Sept 5 ...	Sept 12 ...	Bombay & Karachi
NOVARA	7,000 ...	Sept 6 ...	— ...	Colombo & Calcutta
*MALWA	11,000 ...	Sept. 12 ...	Sept. 19 ..	Straits, China, Japan
CALEDONIA...	,000 ...	Sept. 19 ...	Sept. 26 ...	Bombay and Karachi
KARMALA	9,000 ...	Sept. 26 ...	— ...	Straits, China, Japan

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MANTOLA ...	8,963 ...	—	... Aug. 30 ...	Madras & Calcutta
§TRENEGLOS	4,393 ...	—	... Sept. 4 ...	East African Ports
¶†MORVADA ...	8,193 ...	—	... Sept. 12 ...	Bombay & Karachi
†MELKARA ...	8,735	Aug. 30 ...	Sept. 13 ...	Madras & Calcutta
†MANDALA... ...	8,246 ...	Sept. 6 ...	Sept. 26 ...	Bombay and Karachi
†MODASA	8,985 ...	Sept. 13 ...	Sept 27 ...	Madras and Calcutta
‡MADURA	8,475 ...	—	... Oct. 2 ...	East African Ports
¶†MANELA	8,303 ...	Sept. 20 ...	Oct. 11 ...	Bombay & Karachi

Ships marked § will not take passengers. ¶ Calls Malta.
† Leaving Antwerp one week after Middlesbrough date.
‡ From Middlesbrough, Sept. 20.

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‡*City of Canterbury	8,421	Sept 3	Bombay and Karachi
†City of London	8,956	Sept 16	Bombay and Karachi
City of Exeter	9,447	Sept. 16	Colombo, Madras, Calcutta
*City of Harvard	7,071	Sept. 24	Bombay and Karachi
†City of Simla	9,468	Oct. 1	Colombo and Calcutta
†City of Nagpur	10,138	Oct. 4	Bombay and Karachi

‡ Via Naples. * Call's Port Sudan † Via Marseilles.

SOUTHAMPTON to FAR EAST PORTS.

City of Lahore	10,040	Sept. 20	S'pore, H'kong, S'hai, Kobe, and Y'hama
City of Karachi	8,040	Oct. 18	

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City of Palermo	5,900	Sept. 5	Cape Town, Algoa Bay, East London, and Natal.
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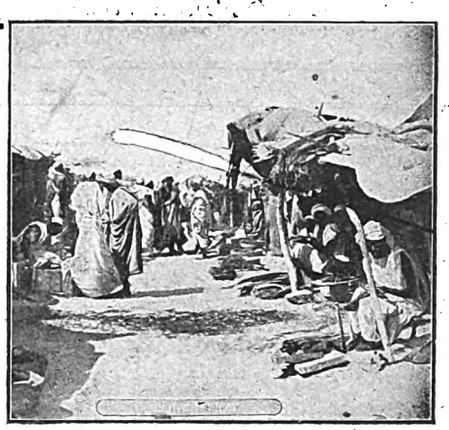

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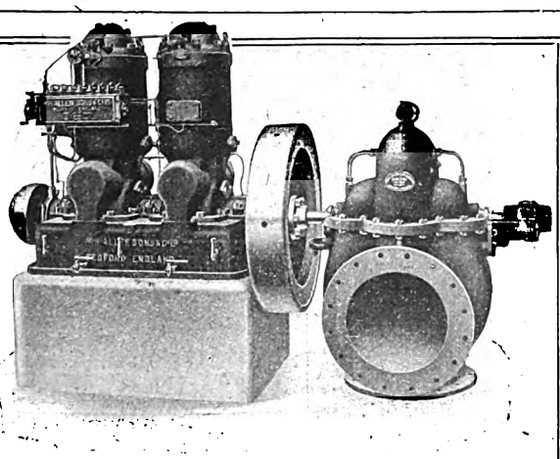

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No. 695—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Situation in the Sudan.

Too many forces have been at work in the Sudan to allow the trouble that flared up simultaneously in three different places to die down with equal rapidity everywhere. An agitation carried out by Egyptians in the Sudan has been recognised to be a mistake, and such efforts as are being made now to keep it alive are given a Sudanese flavour. Thus a society of young Sudanese in Cairo has been responsible for an inflammatory circular sent to native residents in the Sudan, and a meeting of notables in Khartoum is reported to have expressed sympathy with Egyptian claims. In the meantime a court-martial composed of Egyptian and Sudanese officers has passed sentences on the ringleaders in the outbreak of the Egyptian Railway Battalion at Atbara, and another court is dealing with the cadets of the Military School responsible for the demonstration in Khartoum. A notification to Provincial Governors from the Acting Governor-General, calling attention to "the continued want of discipline and grave dereliction of duty among certain officials, especially in the younger and lowest grades," conveys some idea of the extent to which the agitation has been carried. Now that there is no chance of any settlement of the Sudan question by agreement with Egypt, it is right that the British authorities should be prepared for all eventualities. As a preliminary step it will be noted that most of the Sudan officials at present on leave are being recalled to their posts.

The Egyptian Attitude.

A satisfactory development during the past week in regard to the Sudan trouble has been the difference in the tone of a certain number of the more important Egyptian newspapers, which have abandoned mere abuse of Great Britain for expressions of regret over the attitude of the British Press. It is notoriously difficult to see the opponent's side in a dispute; but on this point there would seem to be a confusion of cause and effect. The Sudan question was discussed in an unnecessarily offensive form by the Egyptian Press long before any notice was taken in Great Britain of the organised campaign. When the subject was dealt with, the Egyptian claims were examined from every point of view, and were refuted on historical, ethnological, and moral grounds. If there has been any departure from a strictly dispassionate narrative, it was in a readiness to take for granted that Egyptian Administration must necessarily be as bad to-day as it was forty or fifty years ago. Unfortunate or regrettable as this attitude may be, it can only be regarded as a mild retort to the Egyptian abuse of Britain and lack of appreciation of her work in the Nile Valley. In any case, it was almost inevitable in the absence of definite proof of administrative progress on the part of the Egyptians, and for this reason the Egyptian Cabinet had been urged in its own interests to avoid raising the Sudan question until it could demonstrate its capacity for governing in Egypt in support of a claim to govern the Sudanese. It was only when the overwhelming logic of the British case made the vapid assertions of the Egyptian Press look so foolish that an attempt was made in Egypt to give the claim an historical basis. This move has brought Sir Ernest Wallis Budge into the field, and in the course of two columns in *The Times* he sets out to establish "the most obvious facts—namely, that for the last 6,000 years Egypt and the Sudan have been two countries, entirely separate and distinct, and inhabited by peoples of different races, with different religions and manners and customs, and, until the rise of Islam, speaking entirely different languages." It will be of interest to see whether any Egyptian historian or archæologist will undertake a serious refutation of his scholarly article. When, however, it is realised in Egypt that there is no chance of the Egyptians having their own way in regard to the Sudan, academic discussion, it is to be feared, will yield place to more violent expressions of dissatisfaction.

Government in Egypt.

The Sudan episode seems to throw a lurid light on the conception of government in independent Egypt. We must infer that it was an unofficial element and not the Cabinet that first brought the subject of the future status of the Sudan to the fore. Whether the Cabinet welcomed the agitation is not so easy to determine, but it may at least be given the benefit of the doubt. If independent Egypt is thus to suffer from the too many

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cooks who will sooner or later spoil the administrative broth, it will be owing to the "besetting sin" of Egyptian officials, as Lord Cromer, in his report of 1903, characterised "the almost universal tendency to shirk responsibility." No one in Egypt is likely to dispute to-day that it would have been very much better from the Egyptian point of view to have left the Sudan question in the hands of Zaghloul Pasha and the capable Egyptian Minister in London without the embittered Press campaign, which caused it to be raised in the Legislative Assembly and forced it on the notice of the British Government and public. But even when the opportunity offered, the Prime Minister refused to say the word which would have stopped the agitation. Only a few years ago Egyptian hatred of Great Britain availed nothing and did nothing until Zaghloul Pasha made himself its mouthpiece. To-day he is the head of the Egyptian Government, but the real power in the land reposes elsewhere, in the very small section of public opinion which is articulate, or at least with the Wafd, the central committee of the Zaghloulist party. So much encouragement has been given to mob clamour in order to spread responsibility over as many shoulders as possible that the seed of grave trouble in the future may well have been sown for the Egyptian Government. One cannot look for students of political affairs in a country where every schoolboy is taught to regard himself as a professor of politics; but if there were such students in Egypt they would find an interesting field of study in trying to discover whether the fellaheen's aptitude for clamouring for an independence that they did not want does not betray a determination to brook no man's domination, not even that of their own countrymen. If it does, disillusionment is in store for Egypt.

Turkey and the League.

The controversy between Great Britain and Turkey in regard to the northern boundary of Iraq entered upon another stage on August 29, when the question came before the Council of the League of Nations. A letter had been received from the Turkish Government notifying its agreement to bring the question before the League in accordance with the terms of the Treaty of Lausanne, but adding that, in view of the fact that official information of the deposition of the ratifications of the Treaty in Paris had not yet been received and that twenty days' consideration would be required after the receipt of such information, a delay would occur in the arrival of the Turkish representative to the League. To this communication the Council replied by telegram to the effect that discussion of the subject would be deferred until the Turkish representative arrived, and the hope was expressed that his departure might be expedited. It is curious how ignorant the Turkish authorities remain in regard to European psychology. Its deliberate procrastination may possibly conform with desert etiquette in negotiations between two sheikhs, but is entirely out of place with any Government claiming to be civilised, and must further prejudice Turkey in the eyes of the League. It would be thought that by now the Angora Government had realised the advantage of trying to live up to the standard which is claimed for the Turkish republic. On the very first occasion, however, when Turkey makes her appearance before the Areopagus of the nations she proclaims herself still shackled by the handicaps of her Central Asian origin.

The Significance of Angora.

It is in its seeming remoteness from the realities of modern life, as exemplified by the Turkish Government's letter to the Council of the League of Nations, that Angora as the capital of the Republic will make it difficult for Turkey to do justice to herself. The desire to be rid of the associations connected with Constantinople can be understood, but to bury the Turkish Government in the wilds of Anatolia was not the only alternative policy. For the present, however, the Turks are committed to this wholly unsuitable town, and it is a matter for satisfaction that the British Government has decided to construct a building there for the purpose of a Legation. Germany's portable bungalow may be a shrewder move from a strictly business point of view, and more in keeping with the meteoric nature of her relations with the Turkish authorities; but Great Britain is well advised to take the Turks as seriously as they take themselves. The material disabilities of Angora can be overcome in time; already it is said to be becoming a transformed town, with buildings fit for a capital and with some attention paid to street-planning and sanitation. Improved railway communication, moreover, may make it more accessible to the outside world; but so long as it remains in the eyes of educated Turks the headquarters of ignorance and mediævalism, it will fail to appeal to that section of the people which alone can make a lasting success of the Republic.

The Serbian Patriarchate.

The restoration, on August 28, of the Serbian Patriarchate at Ipek, its ancient seat, is an event well calculated to rouse the enthusiasm of the Serbian people. Ecclesiastical autonomy was won by Serbia in 1219, and in 1346 the Serbian Archbishopric was proclaimed a Patriarchate. Under Turkish domination, when everything else that was Serbian had been overthrown, the Church remained as the one beacon of light for the oppressed nation. In 1766 the Patriarchate was abolished by the Turks at the instance of the Phanariots at Constantinople. The rule of the latter came to an end in 1831, when a Serbian Bishop once more became head of the Church, and now, with the enthronement of the Patriarch Dimitri, who has been Metropolitan since 1905, the complete independence of the Serbian Church is rounded off. Closely identified in the past with the stormy chapter of the nation's history, the Serbian Church in the future, it is to be hoped, will be able to associate itself with all that makes for peace and progress in the life of the Yugoslav people.

The Position in Bengal.

The Bengal Legislative Council has refused to take advantage of the *locus penitentiæ* offered by the recent amendment in the rules which govern its business, and, having decided not to vote salaries for Ministers, has been prorogued for an indefinite period. The narrowness of majorities which has characterised the recent proceedings was maintained to the end, the final difference being one of two votes, and, since charges of bribery and intimidation have been freely brought by both sides, we

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may conclude at least that local opinion regards such practices as natural. We regret the suspension of the Bengal debates, which have made much better reading than those of most other provinces, but perhaps the flood of witty rhetoric has not been altogether healthy, and its subsidence may give the electorate time to think matters out, a process which seems as yet to have been neglected. Up to the present time we must admit that the province has made little progress towards democracy: the brightest boy has failed to learn his lesson, and has been sent down to join the duffers at the bottom of the class; but such little tragedies are not unknown in the world of education, and the lost position can be regained if wits are set to work in earnest.

Where Dyarchy Works.

After the commination of Dyarchy by the procession of ex-Ministers to which we referred last week, it is refreshing to find a live Minister asking for further powers on the ground that Dyarchy, though not perfect, has been a practical success. Naturally, this contention comes from Madras, which is well ahead of all other provinces just now, and seems really to have got a grip of essentials while politicians elsewhere have been groping in the mist. We take it that Englishmen at least will listen to Sir Parsurma Patro's exposition of the weak parts of the constitution with much more respect than has been accorded to the Jeremiahs, and, though they may not go all the way with him, will agree that he has chosen the right way to obtain extended powers. One step, at any rate, might be taken at once, to disavow the theory of a uniform advance throughout India, which underlies so many of the constitutional provisions, though, to our mind, it is inconsistent with the often-quoted preamble. It would be absurd to promote Bengal because of the merits of Madras, but it would be altogether wrong to keep Madras back because Bengal has not yet earned promotion.

Responsibility and Finance.

Sir P. Patro's strongest point seems to us to be his contention that Ministerial responsibility cannot be developed effectively under the "joint-purse" arrangement, under which the revenue of the province is raised by the Government as a whole, and Ministers are responsible only for spending the share they can secure, by negotiations with the executive council, or by raiding the police budget, as the case may be. The test of effective responsibility is that a Minister should be in a position to persuade the Legislature, and through it the electorate, to find the money which his policy requires, and this involves, to our mind, a clean cut in the matter of finance. We know, of course, that there are practical difficulties in the way, and we suspect Ministers would be much more uncomfortable under such a system than they are now: but practical difficulties are there to be faced, and Ministerial comfort is, unfortunately, no part of democracy. If anything is to be done just now to facilitate the working of the existing constitution, the changes should be directed to making the facts plain to all concerned, whether Ministers, legislators, or electors, and the institution of "separate purses" would do more than anything else to make ordinary people understand what democracy really means.

THE NEAR EAST INDEX.

The Index to Volume XXV. of "The Near East" (January 3—June 26, 1924) is now ready, and copies will be sent to subscribers gratis on application to the Manager, "The Near East," 167, Strand, London, W.C.2.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The London Agreement.

It is far too soon, of course, to forecast the effect of the London Agreement, which was signed at the Foreign Office on Saturday. Without question there will be a good deal of opposition to it. In this country alone there are far more people, both employers and employed, who fear the effect of a German recovery, and who, though they grumbled at the state of Europe when Germany was not a possible customer, are genuinely afraid of Germany as a competitor-customer.

From the domestic point of view, the chief interest lies in the possibility of a renascence of Protection. One should not build too much on this, however; for any step by the "workers" in this direction is being magnified out of due proportion. But there is certainly a chance, if Germany is allowed to deposit her cheap wares here, of home industries suffering badly.

Razing the Higher Universities.

One rather likes Mr. Maxton, the Scottish Labour M.P. Unlike so many of his fellows, he does not, on contact with reality, allow his convictions to be grossly tarnished, and of a hundred M.P.'s who, before they assumed office, were ready to raze to the ground such obsolete and "capitalist" institutions as the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, he remains alone. He boldly challenges these seats of learning to produce such statesmen as Messrs. MacDonald, Snowden, and Wheatley, and, finding no one to answer him, breathes out destruction on the courts and the quads.

Of course, in so delightful a pastime as University baiting truth does not matter in the least. Who are we to point out that both Universities have produced only too abundantly the MacDonald and Snowden type, or, even more disastrously irrelevant, that politicians are not the sole product of the older Universities?

Approaching the Superman.

It is extraordinary with what degree of solemnity the statistics that relate to the national health, deaths, and so on, are studied. So many people appear to forget that statistics almost always can bear more than one interpretation. But nothing is too fantastic for the optimists, and a recent statement by a medical officer of health that the new generations will be bigger, handsomer, and more intelligent has been eagerly devoured. As a matter of fact, it is the permanence of the human type much more than change in it which makes the fascinating study. Changes there, of course, are, but they seem to be merely reactions to new environments. The English race, for instance, is not quite so tall as it used to be, and scientists affirm that we are steadily becoming hatchet-faced. To suppose, therefore, that we are gradually approaching the superman is nonsense.

Rights on the Broads.

A dispute is fiercely raging at the moment over rights on the Norfolk Broads, the "public" being very bitter at the attempt of certain private owners to preserve their property for the use of sportsmen only. The Press, of course, takes the side of the public in this affair, taking the attitude that such places as the Broads should be "of the greatest good to the greatest number." But this is an ignorant and foolish view. The habit of spending holidays on the Broads has increased enormously of late years, the increase consisting (as is plain for anyone to see) mostly of the gramophone-loving and Anzora creased type.

By true Broadsmen the advent of these appalling

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people has been looked upon with resentful dismay, and if the Courts uphold the owners' decision to close certain waters to the public they will be gleeful. Sportsmen will always be able to get where they want on the Broads, whose personality has for scores of years been like that of no other waters in England. And if democracy gets to them, they will, as everything else does, lose that personality.

Stonehenge.

One had at first supposed that the tremendous fuss which the papers have been making over the permission given by the Government to a body of men known as the Druid Universalists to scatter the ashes of their dead members over Stonehenge was all part of that nervous disorder, "the silly season." But the incredible appears to be true. The quiet impudence by which any men should have supposed themselves to have any connection with or rights over Stonehenge is amusing, but thus to have persuaded a Government is indeed a feat. Perhaps Mr. George Robey will soon be starting a Society of Cavemen?

The Cricket Championship.

Perhaps the most disappointing, although certainly not the most important, aspect of this disappointing cricket season has been the fight for the cricket championship, which has been won at last by Yorkshire. I do not refer so much to the system of percentages in reckoning the championship—for there are counties which can at will find ways round that sport-killing device—but to the reputation which the Yorkshire eleven has this year earned for bad sportsmanship.

It is true that the mere Southerner, who plays his game for the love of the thing and drinks no more beer over winning than over losing, has little idea of the tenseness and importance with which county games in the North are wrapped. Lancashire, for instance, an enormously strong side, has failed to win many matches against quite weak opponents, merely because it would not go for the runs. And for unenterprising sides the weather this year has brought swift retribution. But, apart from this, the Yorkshire eleven has become almost a by-word among cricketers, and although older men put it down to the lack of authority in the exercise of captaincy, most men are agreed that there are in the champion county to-day one or two men who are simply unfit to play under any captain.

The Protracted Harvest.

Early reports of the country's harvest are very discouraging, for everywhere the crops have been badly damaged by rain. Owing to the weather, the harvests all over the country have just dragged on, and in the South of England much of the cereal harvest is still uncarted. This long exposure of the crops means, of course, very serious depreciation, applying specially to barley, wheat, and oats. In Kent this is supposed to be about the worst harvest on record, and, although we must make allowances for such statements—farmers are very plentiful with their "worsts on record"—there is no doubt that agriculturists' experiences this year throughout the United Kingdom have been extremely unhappy.

London Invaded.

For weeks past London has been full of the provincials, particularly from Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Wales; but now the trippers are thicker than ever before. It takes even longer, they say, to walk through the swarms up the Strand than to ride the same distance by bus; certainly you cannot get on a bus but you will hear some bright "lass" from the North of England ask for some place in the opposite direction to that in which the bus is moving.

The more facile and superior of Londoners are putting it down to the British Empire Exhibition, but the authorities at Wembley are by no means in agreement. From the figures that have been published it is obvious that many of these visitors to London have contrived to avoid Wembley, preferring, if they have not long to stay, the Houses of Parliament, the Tower, the Zoo, and other more permanent institutions. It is, apparently, now quite the thing to charabanc down from Yorkshire and Lancashire to London for the week-end. Well, well, they must like it. . . . .

The British Empire Exhibition.

There are those who state that although the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley has not paid its way, it has nevertheless been a success; but there are always people who find consolation in anything. The fact is that from the point, at any rate, of the majority of the Dominions and Colonies, the Exhibition has been a financial failure, and there is great coming and going now behind the scenes to see whether next year some new scheme cannot be devised. No one knows yet whether Wembley will be open next year; at the moment all efforts are being concentrated on attracting people to it during September and October.

The authorities appear to be blaming the failure on to the Londoners, who, they say, are the only Britons not to have done their share. The Londoner's answer generally seems to be that Wembley is too far away for him.

A Great Journalist.

There seem few people disposed to deny that Mr. H. W. Massingham, who has just died, was a great journalist, for even those whose memories do not go back to the *Star* of the 'nineties can remember the *Daily Chronicle* under Massingham's editorship, and, in a later day, the *Nation*. Personally, I feel unhappy in writing of such a man as this. All his friends are passionate in their affirmation of his burning sincerity, and the fiery expression of his "convictions" is yet the talk of Fleet Street. To me his mind shone with but hodiernal clarity; the scene and the actors were changed too often for any sense of permanence to be left by his writings. It is amazing that a man so impatient of the practical should so many times have succeeded, but as a nation we are much more tolerant of such men as he was in peace than in war.

Alter Ego.

THE DOME OF THE ROCK.

Reuter reports from Jerusalem that the Emir Abdulla and Sir Gilbert Clayton, the Chief Secretary, attended by the Grand Mufti, members of the Moslem Supreme Council, sheikhs, and other Jerusalem notables, on August 27, laid the foundation-stone in connection with the restoration work on the dome of the famous El Aksa, or Omar, Mosque, which an examination carried out at the beginning of the year showed to be in a state of grave deterioration. The Emir Abdulla, who brought with him £25,000 in gold from King Hussein for the necessary repairs to the Mosque of Omar, afterwards left for Amman.

THE DORSET YEAR-BOOK.

Dorset men in the Near and Middle East may like to be reminded of the Dorset Year-Book, now in its twentieth year, of which Mr. Stanley I. Galpin is Honorary Editor (40-43, Fleet Sreet, London, E.C.4). The 1924 issue, which is copiously illustrated, is calculated to raise many a thrill among County men as they goo toddlen down along th' cobbly road o' life in all vower quarters o' th' worold, and fortunately for other folk, this interesting and attractive publication is not all written in the Dorset "langwidge."

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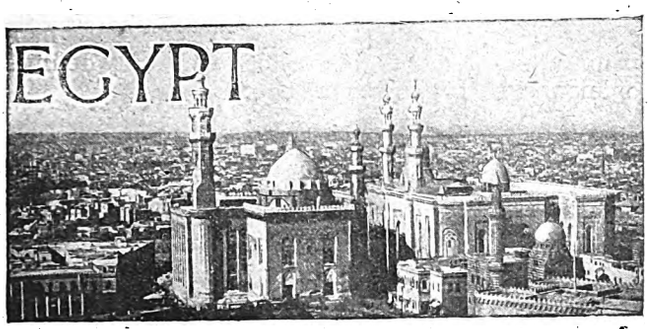
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, August 17.

The Sudan.

Everything has been put into the shade by the events in the Sudan and their developments down here. It is a curious fact, but fully in keeping with the local temperament, that while the attempted assassination of Saad Zaghloul Pasha was soon eclipsed by the inquiry into the so-called Khedivist plot and the latter was in its turn overshadowed by the alleged discovery of a conspiracy to overthrow the present régime, all these have been completely driven into the background by the Sudan.

The gradual arrival of news of trouble in the Sudan aroused the local Press very much, and the controversy that had reigned during the debates in the Egyptian Parliament broke out afresh, only with renewed vigour and venom, owing to the assertions that it was British troops who had taken the main hand in repressing disorders, particularly in firing on the Railway Battalion at Atbara. In spite of the *communiqués* issued by the Residency, which made it perfectly clear that at the time of the firing at Atbara no British troops had been present, and that, in fact, the firing had been done by Arab troops, the violence of the anti-British campaign in the Press increased, and it attained limits never before experienced in all the controversies that have raged in Egypt of late years. What clearly added fuel to the fire, or at any rate encouraged the Press in its outburst, was the delay which the Egyptian Government incurred in issuing a *communiqué* on the subject.

When at length that *communiqué* was published, it turned out to be a most unfortunately worded document. In the most glaring manner no mention was made of the presence of Arab troops; in fact, it actually made it appear as if the only troops present had been British, and that it was the latter who had fired on the mutineers.

While this *communiqué* had the effect of maintaining the excited state of public feeling, it made the worst of impressions on the minds of the European as well as the British communities. The Council of Ministers had had the fullest information on the subject, exactly the same reports as had formed the basis for those issued by the Residency; it knew that public feeling had been much exercised over this very point of the use of British troops against the mutineers; and it was aware that the extremist members of the vernacular Press had all along urged their readers not to put any faith in what reached them from British sources. Yet, with all this knowledge, the Council issued a document which was not merely a misrepresentation of the facts, but a contradiction of the statements issued by the Residency. And when Mr. Clark Kerr, the Acting High Commissioner, made his perfectly justifiable protest the Council, instead of expressing regret for the inaccurate impression conveyed by its *communiqué* and issuing a correction, merely announced that it proposed to publish *in extenso* all the reports that had reached it, so as to confirm the perfect honesty of its intentions and avoid all possible misunderstandings.

It may be, as has been intimated to me, that the desire to publish a concise recital of what had happened accounted for this unfortunate misrepresentation of facts—in which case someone has clearly been guilty of gross negligence, since in the peculiar circumstances scrupulous care should have been taken to ensure that an absolutely correct version was given. It is true, also, that the reports will speak for themselves and reveal the mistake that has been made. But the fact that the Egyptian Government has declined to make any direct admission of that mistake is being severely criticised, even in Egyptian circles, and various motives, not altogether to its credit, are being assigned for this extraordinary attitude.

I now learn that the British Government has sent a Note to the Egyptian Government intimating in terms that admit of no ambiguity that it regards the administration of the Sudan as solely the concern of the Governor-General and not that of the Egyptian Government, that it intends to afford him the fullest support in any measures that he may consider necessary to take, and that it has been decided to send back to Egypt at an early date the Railway Battalion and all Egyptians whose presence in the Sudan is regarded as harmful to the maintenance of law and order there. So far no notice has been taken of this warning, nor has any publicity been given to it by the Egyptian Government.

Cairo, August 23.

The Sudan Episode.

The political atmosphere has much improved, and the great outburst which marked the previous week-end has now almost completely subsided. That the tension is relieved is indicated by the fact that the Council no longer sits for such long hours and that the Ministers are now able to give more time to the affairs of their own administrations.

The publication of the documents, on which the

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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Government based its *communiqué* regarding the events in the Sudan, showed that it had had in its possession the fullest information with regard to what had happened and that the protest of the Acting High Commissioner at the misleading nature of that document was fully justified. The Opposition seized upon this publication as an opportunity to attack the Government for "giving satisfaction to the British"—a sadly foolish attitude to adopt, seeing that the Government was in a position where, for its own credit, it had to publish either a correction of its *communiqué* or all the documents it had received.

A further onslaught took place when the news was received that the Labour Battalion, that had caused all the trouble at Atbara and Port Sudan, was being repatriated; and the Government was attacked for acquiescing without any protest in this execution of Great Britain's threat. Here, again, the Opposition was on very weak ground, for the simple reason that the return of this battalion meets a demand put forward by the Egyptian Parliament last June. It seems to be forgotten—the Government organs now remind their opponents thereof—that at that time the question of this very battalion was raised in the Senate, where complaint was made at its employment on railway work. The Minister of War explained at the time how it had come about that it had been so employed ever since the reconquest and undertook that part of it should be immediately demobilised and the remainder repatriated within as short a time as possible. In the circumstances, the Egyptian Government could not very well object to the return of this battalion.

The Passing of the Crisis.

There is, however, no need to dwell to-day on the events of the past, for it is to be hoped that another and much-to-be-regretted episode in Anglo-Egyptian relations has now been closed, and that matters will henceforward proceed on more tranquil and amicable lines. Certainly it looks as if counsels of prudence are prevailing. On all sides one hears pleas for calm and national union in order that the Government may not be hampered in its actions. It has been in this spirit that the demonstrations organised by the Labour Syndicate have been called off and that the proposal for an urgent summoning of the Chambers has been rejected.

No useful purpose could indeed have been served by a special Parliamentary session at the present juncture. On the contrary, there is every reason to fear that the situation would have been further aggravated and the Government considerably impeded thereby. It is an indisputable fact that the debates in the Chamber of Deputies were entirely responsible for the whole Sudan controversy that ensued in June last, and that the pressure then put on the Government, not only by the Opposition, but also by some of its own supporters, rendered Zaghloul Pasha's position very much more difficult in regard to negotiations. In view of the risk that the less moderate and more vociferous element would raise issues which would have further complicated the already very complicated situation—there is good reason to believe that this was the object of the Opposition—the decision to leave matters as regards Parliament to follow their normal course was an exceedingly wise one.

The great question that is exercising the minds of most people out here at present is whether negotiations will take place at all this summer. There seems to be a general idea that Zaghloul Pasha will not make his projected visit to London, but that, if any meeting takes place between him and Mr. MacDonald, it will be on the Continent either before or after the latter's visit to Geneva. There is a widespread feeling that the recent events in connection with the Sudan have made it scarcely possible for any result satisfactory to Egypt to come from any discussion between the two Prime Ministers; but the Anglo-Egyptian atmosphere undergoes such kaleidoscopic changes and the unexpected is so repeatedly happening that it is quite impossible to give any definite opinion in this connection.

The Abyssinian Church.

The controversy between the Abyssinian Church and the Coptic Patriarch with regard to Deir Sultan, the Coptic Monastery in Jerusalem, bids fair to reach its climax this coming week. Ras Taffari has returned to Cairo, on his way back to Addis Abeba from his European tour, for the express purpose of discussing the question with the Coptic community. The Prince is evidently very determined that this dispute shall be settled one way or the other, and if no decision is come to before he sails this week, he will leave behind him two of his suite to continue negotiations.

Jerusalem, August 23.

The Wahhabi Raid.

The great topic of interest is still the Wahhabi raid into Transjordan. This was referred to briefly in these columns last week. At the time of writing there were no details available beyond the dry official communication. There is now, however, an excess of information from both public and private sources. Official accounts seem, on the whole, to minimise the scale of the raid and its seriousness; private accounts and the accounts reproduced in the local Press go to the other extreme. The truth is most likely to be found nearer the "minimum" than the "maximum" version. The official account published yesterday makes no attempt to gauge the Wahhabi forces—which are said to have numbered anything between 1,200 and 12,000, and to have fought along a front of eighty kilometres. The Wahhabis—however many they may have been—appeared very suddenly and disappeared very suddenly. They undertook a very long desert night journey, and made their appearance at Kastal, some ten miles south of Amman, on the Hejaz Railway, at six o'clock on the morning of August 14, when they were reported to be fighting with local tribesmen. Later in the morning three successive parties of airmen flew over the raiders with bombs and machine-guns; about 11 o'clock armoured cars came into action, and against them the Wahhabis proved quite helpless: early in the afternoon the raiders were sighted forty miles east of Amman, and later air reconnaisances failed to locate any trace of them. Fears that the fugitives might reassemble and try again have not been justified. A *Reuter* cable from Jeddah, reporting further raids on the following Monday at the same place as before, proves to be only a garbled version of the original attack. Vague rumours have been current more recently of

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attacks in the Jebel Druze, but these also seem to be baseless.

We are left to guess whether the Wahhabis were merely on a looting expedition, or whether they were seriously hoping to get a footing in Transjordan. Though it is obvious that the British military help speedily beat off the raid with comparatively light losses to the Transjordan troops and Bedouin tribes, it is not certain that the latter might not—though only with serious loss—have succeeded in defeating the Wahhabis. Some elements in the local Arab Press are quite certain that the British intervention was superfluous, and that the occasion simply served as a pretext to justify the Palestine Government in assuming military—and final and complete—control of Abdullah's independent emirate, and so withdraw that first hardly gained instalment of Arab independence!

Arabs and Agriculture.

Some notice should be taken of certain small beginnings among the Palestinian Arabs towards catching up with modern agricultural methods. In pre-War days the more up-to-date methods of the Jewish colonies made no impression on the Arab cultivators; they still held to their ancestral implements and habits. Now they are no longer indifferent. At Tul-Keram a small agricultural school is in existence, following the lines of the old Jewish agricultural school of Mikveh-Israel, near Jaffa. Every new "Peasant Party" which springs up puts modern agricultural study as one of its primary objects, and—in itself an unusual example of Arab public-spiritedness—the President of the Hebron Peasant Party has given a large plot of ground for the establishing of an agricultural school near Hebron. The allotment of the "Kadoorie Bequest" has been made with extraordinary shrewdness. This bequest, it will be remembered, was put at the disposal of the British Government for educational purposes in Palestine. It was at first proposed to do the obvious thing and create with the fund more and ordinary secondary education facilities for both Arab and Jew. Now, however, it is decided to devote half the money to an agricultural school for the Arabs in Tul-Keram, the other half to go to the Hebrew Secondary School in Jerusalem. Thus a very substantial Jewish gift is put in the hands of the Arabs to be devoted to precisely that work which will best help them to face Jewish competition where it is most pressing. This grant towards agricultural education has not aroused a single syllable of comment in the Arab Press.

The Hebrew University.

Some slight progress is announced from the Hebrew University. In addition to the existing departments of Biochemistry and Microbiology, there is now created the department of Jewish Studies. A heavy endowment recently came from an American Jew towards the faculty of Arts and Letters, and a few weeks ago a committee of Jewish leaders and scholars met in London to decide upon the best mode of beginning work in such a direction. It must be admitted that they decided well. There was a strong party, representing the local Hebrew learned world of Palestine, which was for creating outright Chairs of Philosophy, History, Mathematics, Sociology, Greek, and the rest of the more august features which go to make up a fully fledged university; but the saner of the committee realised that this would mean inferior professors and a University no better than, say, something to be found in some uppish district in the middle-west of the States. The committee wisely restricted itself, first, to subjects of study exclusively Jewish (since these, naturally, should be found at their best in the Hebrew University), and, secondly, to creating only such sub-departments for which first-class men could be found as professors, and avoiding any imposing paper scheme of lines of research in subjects for which a first-class Jewish professor was not available. This is a very small but eminently wise beginning—only it has proved a bitter disappointment to the local body of scholars.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, August 19.

Egypt and Cyprus.

Affairs in Egypt and the Sudan are watched with great interest and some uneasiness, especially those of Egypt. The connection with Cyprus is close. The Cypriot Colony is a large one—many years ago it was over 30,000—and the "Cypriot Brotherhood" has done, and does, much in aid of schools and institutions in the island. Many Cypriots in Egypt have bequeathed large sums for education and other purposes. One of the reasons why so little has been done officially for Cyprus is held to be that when, in 1882, we came to occupy Egypt as the dominant Power, Cyprus was in consequence largely affected. All idea of making it a naval base was abandoned; and when, under Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, as Colonial Secretary, a loan of £60,000 was sanctioned, the lesser of two schemes for a harbour at Famagusta was carried out. The larger, which would have provided a harbour that could shelter the whole Mediterranean Squadron, was put aside. Whatever our future policy in Egypt, Palestine, Transjordan, and Cyprus may be, the close proximity of the island must always be a factor of the greatest importance. [Napoleon and others always regarded Cyprus as a stepping-stone to Egypt.] The importance of its geographical position may now again be said to be of peculiar interest to us. For the Cypriot, especially the mercantile classes, there may well be considerable anxiety as to any development of native administration and diminution of European control or influence in Alexandria and Egypt generally, as this, they apprehend, may bring loss or disaster to many Greeks.

The Present Outlook.

The present situation is one of suspense. Most families are away in the hills for the hot season.

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The general opinion is that on the return of the High Commissioner, Sir Malcolm Stevenson, the Legislative Council will be dissolved and fresh elections held; but this is mere rumour. The Greek leaders regard the present non-Moslem members of Council—two Maronite priests and villagers of the agricultural class—as unfit to represent the Greek community. However this may be, the situation was brought about entirely by the refusal of their own ex-members to sit in the Chamber, which they must now recognise to have been an unwise step. Leading articles in the Greek Press—there is no Turkish paper—continue to dwell almost exclusively on political subjects and aims. It is, however, commonly understood that the Greek leaders, ex-members, and town candidates for the next election have resolved to co-operate with the Government for progress in the island—a new rôle. It remains to be seen how far the resolution will be carried out. It would be the height of folly on their part not to recognise how much harm they have done to island interests, and, indeed, probably to their own cause, by their past tactics; how much more might have been accomplished had they worked whole-heartedly for material prosperity instead of for political dreams, which they should know cannot be realised for a multiplicity of reasons, and how much they can still do if they proceed along a new and less deviating path. The papers still talk as if nothing had been done for the island under British administration, whereas—while candidly admitting that the pace has been slow—Cyprus has been wonderfully transformed since the days of Turkish rule. In the towns especially one can find an entirely different people. The younger generations have lived only under British administration. They have no idea what the island was like before they were born or went to school. They have only known a period of security for property, which has enabled many Cypriots to make fortunes, during years in which many have learned to qualify in law, medicine, and other professions. The change in dress and social life generally has been remarkable. A totally new atmosphere has been created, in most respects for the better. A Press has grown up which would have been impossible under Ottoman rule, and which, unfortunately—and often rather ungratefully—has allowed its anti-Government sentiments to stray beyond the limits of reason and liberty. Writers still fail to see how retrograde would be a transfer to rule from Athens in present circumstances. Should matters now proceed harmoniously, it is quite possible that some further concessions might in due course be made towards "self-rule." But, up to the present, circumstances have clearly shown how entirely right have been the decisions of successive British Governments. The Duke of Devonshire having, as Colonial Secretary, stated emphatically that the question of "union" must now be considered as closed, only palpable weakness or indifference would allow it to be re-opened.

Mustapha Kemal, accompanied by Ministers and Deputies, left Constantinople last Friday for Angora, in order to lay the foundation stone of a memorial to an unknown soldier on the Tonlu Bunar heights.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

A serious railway accident occurred last Friday at Montgomery, 60 miles from Lahore. Two passenger trains came into collision, resulting in ninety-five deaths and over a hundred injured.

The Hejaz Minister to Great Britain has left the Hejaz for England, bringing with him a redraft of the proposed Anglo-Hejaz Treaty.

Monsignor Dolci, the Papal Nuncio at Bucharest, arrived at Constantinople on August 26 in order to settle the dispute over the re-opening of the Congregational schools between Turkey, France, and Italy.

An explosion occurred on August 28 at the military powder magazine near Piræus. Practically two tons of obsolete ammunition were exploded, causing the death of two soldiers. The magazine was destroyed.

The Burmah Legislative Council has adopted the Nationalist party leaders' resolution in favour of a further grant of constitutional reforms and the placing under provincial control of all subjects except foreign relations and defence.

The Times' Rangoon correspondent says that the appeal of Mr. A. V. Joseph against a sentence of nine months' imprisonment with hard labour, and a 5,000 rupee (£330) fine for having defrauded the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, has been successful.

The Egyptian Ministry of Education is arranging for the establishment of 110 elementary schools throughout the country for boys and girls under the newly-instituted compulsory education scheme, for which £100,000 was budgeted this year.

The Government of India announces that Khan Sahib Shah Ali Akbar, Political Naib and Tahsildar, was murdered on August 25 on the Sarwekai-Wana road. He is believed to have been killed by Taji Khel Wazirs, some of whom were actually in his escort.

The Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanagar, better known as Ranjitsinhji, has bought from Messrs. Thornycrofts a 70-ft. sailing motor yacht, which he launched recently from their Hampton yard. The boat is most luxuriously appointed, and His Highness intends to use her primarily for pleasure and State reception purposes. In November next, on the occasion of the Viceroy's State visit, she will be used for a trip along the coast.

The Khalifa-ul-Massih Bashir-ed-Din Mahmud Ahmad, head of the Ahmadia movement in Islam, attended by a suite of fifteen persons, visited Brighton last Friday and inspected the *chattri* erected on the Downs near Patcham as a tribute to Indian soldiers who died in the War, and the memorial gateway at the Royal Pavilion, which was given by the people of India to Brighton, in grateful recognition of the town's grant of the historic building as a hospital for wounded Indian soldiers.

Admiral Earl Beatty, who was accompanied by Lady Beatty and the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, arrived at Bucharest on August 25 from Constanza, and was received at the station by the authorities. A luncheon in honour of the Admiral was given at the Military Club, the guests including members of the Government, the Staff of the British Legation, and a number of high military officers. In the evening, Lord Beatty was entertained at a banquet at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Later, Lord Beatty, with M. Bratiano, the Premier, the British Military Attaché, and a large party, left for an excursion on the Danube to the Iron Gates.

Concessions obtained by a Greek, M. Mavromatis, in 1914, from the Turkish Government, for the construction in Palestine of tramways, irrigation works, and electric light systems, were the subject of a judgment delivered on August 29 by the Permanent Court of International Justice, at The Hague, to which the matter had been submitted by the Greek Government. Some of M. Mavromatis's plans had been used by the British authorities during the war, and he had claimed compensation from the Zionist Organisation. The finding of the Court upheld, in respect of the concessions at Jaffa, the British contention that it was not competent to give judgment, but rejected the plea in regard to the concessions at Jerusalem, and reserved these latter concessions for further inquiry.

The Mediterranean Fleet, under the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Osmund de B. Brock, K.C.B., returned last Saturday to Malta. The battleships and cruiser squadron arrived from Corfu, and the destroyer flotillas from Argostoli, thus concluding the first part of the summer cruise which was made to ports in Greece, Italy, and the Adriatic. The *Marlborough*, Captain William D. Paton, D.S.O., which left the Fleet at Zara to go to Alexandria in connection with the situation in the Sudan, is being relieved by the *Emperor of India*, Captain Frederick P. Loder-Symonds, C.M.G., as she is to return home to pay off and recommission before the end of September. The fleet is scheduled to leave for the second part of the summer cruise on September 8, and will reassemble at Malta on October 23.

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Near East Bookshelf.

EGYPTIAN INDEPENDENCE.

"EGYPT AND THE ARMY." By Lieut.-Colonel P. G. Elgood, C.M.G. (Oxford University Press. Price, 16s. net.)

Our author sets out to bring the story of Modern Egypt up to date. "Of the early successes of England in Egypt," he writes, in the Preface, "Milner, in his book under that title, has left an imperishable and truthful record; of the early failures, Wilfred Blunt, in the *Secret History of the English Occupation of Egypt*, has bequeathed an equally vivid though bitter account. There remains yet to relate how and why Egypt threw off the yoke. This is the task I have set out to perform." No one who reads this book will accord it the lowest place in the trilogy. Colonel Elgood has spent a large portion of his life in Egypt; he has seen service in the Ministries of War, Interior and Finance; more important still for the purposes of a contemporary historian, he is well disposed towards the Egyptians; while allowing neither his sympathies with them nor any British prejudices he may have to detract from the strict impartiality with which he approaches his subject. If we have any quarrel with the author, it is that the title, although justifying, perhaps, the space allotted to military operations, fails altogether to do justice to his masterly analysis of the events and conditions associated with the declaration of Egypt's independence. A tantalising characteristic of the book, if another grumble is permissible, is the studied omission of official names. Thus the representative of Great Britain in Egypt at the outbreak of the War is *passim*, "the Acting British Agent"; the memorandum that caused Rushdi Pasha to resign his premiership is by "an Englishman holding high office in the Egyptian Government."

The great value of "Egypt and the Army" lies in its careful delineation of the successive phases in the attitude of Egypt towards Great Britain. It would be a profound mistake to suppose, writes Colonel Elgood, that, at the date of the outbreak of the War, British control was welcome to the inhabitants of Egypt. "Unhappily, precisely the reverse was the case. Few Egyptians esteemed the work of England in their country, fewer still desired it to be continued, and those who had profited most from the Occupation were foremost now in denouncing it. Sudden prosperity had destroyed the reasoning faculty of the nation. Unmindful that their good fortune was due to British rule, they saw in every action of England a purely selfish inspiration." It is not difficult to understand how the strain of a long war would tell on such a temperament. Even so, with judicious handling, the Egyptians might have been induced to make adequate allowance for military exigencies, and might have placed, as it were, in cold storage for the duration of the War their feelings towards Great Britain. Unfortunately, British statesmanship was taxed to the utmost in other directions; it had nothing to spare for Egypt, and blunder was piled on blunder. Considerations of space prevent us from following the various stages so graphically described in this book. On the introduction of martial law, the population was assured that it was a measure of precaution only, and at the same time the British Government solemnly declared that Great Britain accepted the sole burden of the War, without calling upon the Egyptian people for aid. That undertaking was broken without any attempt at explanation just at the moment when the Egyptians were tiring of the War, and with the transfer of military operations to Palestine were inclined to suppose that it concerned them no more. "Military authority in Cairo, marking the birth of restlessness, misread its origin and magnified its origin. The old spirit of tolerance, practised so sedulously by General Maxwell, gave place to one of suspicion, and the disinclination of Egypt to share the burden of military operations outside her territory was construed as hostility towards Great Britain. Insensibly martial law became an instrument of repression, and the solemn promise made at its declaration faded from memory." Then came service in the Egyptian Labour Corps. "Unashamedly, the corvée was re-introduced," and ultimately Egypt yielded to the Army her labour, her food, and her money, and to Britain her cotton. Thus it came about that during the closing months of the War fellahin Egypt was stirred into savage hatred of British authority. "Nor did the first days of peace produce a kindlier atmosphere. Military requisition still continued: military rule stiffened, rather than relaxed." The climax came with the requisition of land at Aboukir, near Alexandria, for the purposes of the Royal Air Force. Zaghloul Pasha now steps into the foreground of the picture, and the chief points in the subsequent history of Egypt are well known. Colonel Elgood thus sums up the situation:—

"The clamour of Egyptians in March, 1919, had been misinterpreted. Originally no more than a spontaneous desire to register protest against prevailing conditions, the movement was confused with revolution, and handled in accordance with that incorrect impression. The Army, placed in supreme control, believed that Egyptians desired to overthrow authority, and treated the people as avowed enemies of Great Britain. It was a lamentable misconception of the facts. Egypt at no time desired to injure England, and at first claimed no more than the right to control her own domestic business. Mistaking the sentiment, Great Britain pursued a policy of repression, which caused Egypt to stiffen her demand. . . .

"If Great Britain was slow to confess her blindness, Egypt was equally unmindful of the substantial benefits which the former had bestowed upon her. In the torrent of denunciation hurled by the Nationalist party on England's head, there was no confession that the Occupation in any respect had benefited Egypt. From the omission posterity will judge the honesty of the spokesmen of the nation and the bitterness of the people towards Great Britain. . . . England had given to Egypt upright in place of corrupt government, solvency in place of bankruptcy, and liberty in place of oppression."

There is much more that is good in this book, but we can only refer the reader to a trenchant critique of the Armenian refugees as they showed themselves in Egypt from 1915 onwards, to the tribute paid to the Suez Canal Company and to the shortcomings of Egyptian education.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"A History of the Indian Wars." By Clement Downing. Edited with Introduction and Notes by William Foster, C.I.E. (London: Humphrey Milford. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Commercial and Trades Directory of Iraq, 1924-25." Printed and published by the Times Printing and Publishing Co. (Mesopotamia, Ltd.), Basrah and Baghdad. (London: The Overseas Publicity and Service Agency, 9, Quality Court, W.C.2. 20s. net. inland; abroad, 20s., plus postage.)

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

ANTI-BRITISH PROPAGANDA IN GERMANY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Bengal is again the theatre of a movement which aims at committing murder, dacoity and robbery; and collecting funds for the purpose of financing a revolution. If it is a fact that the chief instigator is a Brahman named N. N. Bhattacharji, otherwise known as "M. N. Roy," who is said to have established himself in Berlin, whence he is flooding India with Bolshevist literature, how, then, does it come about that our Government should allow conquered Germany to harbour conspirators of his type?—I am, etc.,

August 26. F. H. S.

THE PRESS IN EGYPT.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Lady Drummond Hay, in her very interesting article published in THE NEAR EAST of the 21st ult., states that *Alahram* is the only newspaper in Egypt possessing a special telegraphic service of its own. This statement seems to me unfair to other newspapers in Egypt. The *Egyptian Gazette*, the organ of the British community in Egypt, receives special cables from London. *Al Siassa*, the Adlyist organ, whose circulation is greatly increasing, and which is considered one of the best edited newspapers in Egypt, has also organised a special cable service. There are also other newspapers which receive occasional cables from London.

Lady Drummond Hay also says that now "forty thousand is the figure reached by the most popular daily." I should like to point out that the figures of circulation in Egypt are probably open to question. I hear from people who know a great deal about the Press in Egypt that the greatest circulation at the present moment is about twenty thousand copies. Of course, in times of excitement papers sell more.

May I also add that there is not a single Egyptian newspaper that could depend on its circulation being the same for any period. For instance, a declaration by Zaghloul Pasha against the most popular newspaper is enough greatly to reduce its circulation. Since *Alakhbar*—formerly a Zaghloulist organ—tried to express independent views, its circulation has been greatly reduced; on the other hand, since *Almokattam*—formerly a pro-British Arabic organ—expressed sympathy with the Zaghloulist movement, its circulation has increased by three or four times.

The two chief Zaghloulist editors are ex-enemies of the Zaghloulist movement, and Zaghloul does not mind their past history so long as their papers warmly support Zaghloulism.—I am, etc.

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INDIAN KNIGHTHOODS.

The King has conferred by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, bearing date July 10, 1924, the dignity of knighthood on M. R. Ry. Diwan Bahadur Raghupati Venkataratnam Nayudu Garu.

By warrant under the Royal Sign Manual, the Viceroy of India has been authorised to confer the honour of knighthood on:—

Mr. Alexander James Anderson, C.S.I., V.D.; Mr. Montagu Sherard Dawes Butler, C.B., C.I.E., C.V.O., C.B.E., Indian Civil Service, President of the Council of State; Mr. Peter Henry Clutterbuck, C.I.E., C.B.E., V.D., Inspector-General of Forests; Mr. Mahamadbhai Currimbhai Ebrahim, of Bombay; Mr. Provash Chandra Mitter, C.I.E., Vakil of the High Court of Judicature at Calcutta; Mr. Justice (Babington Bennett) Newbould, Indian Civil Service, Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Calcutta; Mr. Justice (Henry) Scott-Smith, Indian Civil Service, Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Lahore; and Khan Bahadur Sardar Rustomji Jehangirji Vakil.

TROOPING SEASON.

The trooping season 1924-25 began last Tuesday, and will continue until the end of March. The autumn programme, according to present arrangements, is as follows (the port of departure and return in the United Kingdom in every case being Southampton):

Drafts for Gibraltar, Malta, and Egypt sailed in the Derbyshire on September 2, and will leave in the Assaye on November 11.

Drafts for India will sail in the Assaye on September 12, in the Neuralia on September 23, in the City of Marseilles on October 1, and in the Marglen on October 15. After landing other drafts at Aden on October 27 the Neuralia will take the 13th Pack Battery to Port Said.

The 12th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, together with drafts for India, will start in the Neuralia on November 25.

Drafts for Aden, Colombo, and the Far East will sail by the Derbyshire on October 9, and for Aden in the Neuralia on September 23.

Drafts for Egypt will start in the City of Marseilles on December 2.

The 2nd Battalion Border Regiment, for Malta, and drafts for India, will sail in the Marglen on December 11, and at Malta the 1st Gordon Highlanders will embark on the Marglen for India.

NEW PERSIAN CABINET.

The Persian Prime Minister, the Sardar Sipah, introduced the new Cabinet to the Valiahd (Heir Presumptive to the Throne) on August 30. The principal appointments are:—

MOSHAR-UL-MULK	...	Foreign Affairs
ZOKA-UL-MULK	...	Finance
ADIB-ES-SULTANEH	...	Justice
AMIR IEHTEDAR	...	Interior
SARDAR ASSAD	...	Posts and Telegraphs
SARDAR KHORASSANI	...	Public Works

The name of the undermentioned officer is to be added to those "mentioned" in the Waziristan despatches of January, 1922, which were published in the *London Gazette*, May 30, 1924:—Villiers-Stuart, Col. W. D., C.B.E., 1/5th R. Ghurka Rif., I.A.

The Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Affairs, in agreement with the Minister of Finance, has appointed a committee of experts to examine the possibilities of a commercial treaty with Austria. Negotiations will begin with Austria towards the end of the month.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

September 4, 1924 (New Style).
August 22, 1924 (Old Style).
Saphar 4, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Ellul 5, 5684, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Milne Cheetham, British Minister in Athens, and Lady Cheetham are staying this week in London

Lady Annabel Dodds has left England to join Major Dodds at the British Consulate, Tripoli, Libya.

M. Politis, the Greek Minister in Paris, is attending the League of Nations Assembly at Geneva.

The Egyptian Minister and Madame Aziz Izzet, with their two sons, returned to London last week from Geneva.

Ismail Sirry Pasha, formerly Egyptian Minister of Public Works, after a short stay in London, left on August 31 for Paris.

M. George Todorovitch has been appointed Counsellor at the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

M. Duca, Roumanian Foreign Minister, has been appointed permanent Roumanian representative to the League of Nations.

The Maharajah of Bikaner, who arrived recently in London from India, has left to attend the League of Nations meeting in Geneva.

M. Yovan Yovanovitch, Consul-General for Yugoslavia, who has been in Belgrade for several weeks, returned to London last Thursday.

M. D. N. Ciotori, Secretary, and Colonel Ion Antonesco, Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, left London on August 26 for Geneva.

General Lord Rawlinson, Commander-in-Chief in India, who is at present in England, has arranged to return to India during the first week in November.

Phra Sarasas, Third Secretary at the Siamese Legation, has left England to take up the post of Consul-General at Calcutta, to which he was recently appointed.

King George and Queen Elizabeth of the Hellenes were entertained at tea last Thursday by Mr. Frank Buchman, of New York, at Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, London.

The marriage arranged between Captain George Bambridge and Elsie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rudyard Kipling, of Bateman's, Burwash, Sussex, will take place at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, on October 22.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania visited the British Empire Exhibition on August 26, and inspected the Palaces of Industry, Engineering, and Art, as well as the pavilions of India, Burma, Canada, and Australia. The following day the Prince left London for Bournemouth on a visit to the Infante Alfonso and the Infanta Beatrice of Bourbon Orléans.

The King has given authority for the wearing of the insignia of the Order of the Nile, Second Class, to Mr. Charles Todd, O.B.E., M.D., Technical Expert to the Egyptian Department of Public Health.

Zekiai Bey, Minister of Agriculture in the Turkish Government, who acted as Financial Adviser to the Turkish Delegation at the Lausanne Conference, has been appointed Turkish Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, and is expected to arrive shortly in London.

OBITUARY.

M. NICHOLAS MISHU.

It is with regret that we have to record the death, which occurred at Bucharest on August 31, of M. Nicholas Mishu, Comptroller of the Roumanian Royal Household, formerly Roumanian Minister in London. M. Mishu had been ill for many weeks, and at the beginning of August the serious state of his health had led to the departure for Bucharest of his son, M. Nicholas Mishu, who is a Secretary at the Roumanian Legation. M. Mishu was born in 1858, and after taking a degree at Göttingen University, entered the Diplomatic Service in 1886. He held the post of Minister in London from 1913 to 1920. His charm of manner and scholarly attainments won for him a wide circle of friends in England, and he was greatly missed when he returned to Roumania to take up the post specially created for him by King Ferdinand. M. Mishu was a conspicuous classical scholar, and was familiar with twelve languages, amongst which has to be reckoned Anglo-Saxon, which he studied assiduously during his residence in London.

The Hon. Charles M. Dickinson, for many years American Consul-General at Constantinople, also one-time Minister to Bulgaria, and later American Consul-General-at-Large to the Near East and India, passed away early in July, in his eighty-second year, at his home, South Mountain Park, Binghamton, New York.

The death is announced of Colonel Arthur Octavius Green, formerly of the Royal Engineers, at Camberley on August 26. He served with distinction in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882-4, taking part in the battles of Tel-el-Kebir and Teb, at the latter of which he was severely wounded. He also served in the Sudan Expedition of 1885.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1924.

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY IN MACEDONIA

The present moment offers an excellent opportunity for statesmanship in the Balkans to take up the Macedonian question with the prospect of finding a workable solution. Something in the nature of a split has occurred in the ranks of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation. It is not suggested that the policy of *Divide et Impera* should be applied to this unhappy country, but that advantage should be taken of the first serious indication of willingness on the part of an influential section of the Macedonians to place more reliance on the conference chamber than on the rifle for the purposes of a settlement. The Organisation itself is clearly at the parting of the ways. A year ago the Central Committee issued a declaration defining its objects. The Revolutionary Organisation, it was stated, was not a Chauvinist movement, but a purely national organisation. Its adherents were not inspired with hatred against any nation; it was opposed only to Governments guilty of oppression and their agents; it had absolutely nothing to do with the policy of the Bulgarian Government; it would continue to follow an independent line of conduct, and, relying upon the liberal opinion of the whole world, it announced its determination not to lay down its arms until it had attained its end—the complete liberation and unity of the Macedonian peoples, the constitution of a free and independent Macedonia. Since the date of this declaration, September 6, 1923, much has happened to give the Organisation food for thought. The pressure exercised by the Yugoslav Government has become more systematic, if not intensified; the Organisation's independence of Bulgaria has been endorsed, perhaps almost too literally for Macedonian comfort, by the Bulgarian Government. As a result of these conditions the Central Committee found itself obliged to take stock of the new situation. If the policy of war to the knife was to be continued and reliance placed on help from outside, there was only one quarter from which assistance could be expected, namely Russia. It must be inferred that just at this time—the early spring of the present year—Soviet overtures to the Macedonians held considerable attractions for all three members of the Central Committee—Todor Alexandroff, Alexander Protoguéroff, and Petar Tchaouleff—and that an interchange of views between these leaders and others had the effect of encouraging the pro-Bolshevist element in the Organisation.

There has since been published a Manifesto bearing the date of May 6, 1924, and purporting to be signed by all three members of the Central Committee, which announced the definite abandonment of the policy of September 6, 1923. In this new document the Organisation declared that it was unable to disinterest itself in the foreign and domestic policy of the Balkan States, especially of "Serbia," Greece, and Bulgaria, and proceeded to elaborate its case against the different Governments, in particular against the Bulgarian. After a detailed analysis of the shortcomings of these States, which in the case of Bulgaria made no attempt to disguise the fact that it was written exclusively from the point of view of a Bulgarian Communist, the Manifesto called upon all Macedonians and Bulgarians to begin an energetic struggle against M. Tsankoff's Government. Not content with the liberation of Macedonia, it proposed to extend its aim to the "democratisation" of the neighbouring States with a view to their union in a Balkan Federation, which would put an end to all "Chauvinists, annexationists, imperialists, and oppressors." In a word, the Manifesto bore all the signs of Bolshevist penmanship. Nothing seems to have been heard of it until it was published in the first number of a paper called *La Fédération Balcanique*, issued from Vienna on July 15. This publication contains articles in the different languages of South-Eastern Europe, with a French translation of each. Internal evidence suggests that the funds required for such an enterprise must be entirely, or very largely, Soviet in origin. The repudiation of the Manifesto by Todor Alexandroff and Alexander Protoguéroff, who attribute it to "enthusiastic Communists," has called forth rejoinders in the second number of *La Fédération Balcanique*. The third signatory, Petar Tchaouleff, states that complete agreement was reached between himself and his colleagues, to which "concrete expression was given by the publication (*sic*) of the Manifesto of May 6 and by the issue of other documents, of identical tenour, at the foot of which appeared our three signatures, freely and voluntarily appended in the presence of four other persons." Elsewhere in the same issue one of these four other persons, D. Vlahoff, explains that the "original" of the Manifesto was signed by A. Protoguéroff and P. Tchaouleff, and that the name of T. Alexandroff, who left before signature, had been affixed by his two colleagues by Todor Alexandroff's authority given in D. Vlahoff's presence. From this conflict of evidence it may be inferred that already during the discussions Todor Alexandroff had misgivings on the subject of a Macedonian-Bolshevist alliance, and decided to make a tour in Europe in order to sound public opinion abroad. He spent two days in London in the second week of May, and for the greater part of that month was in France. His tour must have convinced him that Macedonia's best chance of independence lay in the gradual and peaceful persuasion of the neighbouring States rather than in a high-handed attempt of a handful of men, however brave and determined, to dictate their own terms to nations numbering some twenty-five million people.

Here, then, is the basis of a crucial difference of opinion in the ranks of the Macedonian Organisation. The quarrel is not over the goal in view, but over the best method of reaching it. No Balkan people has ever been induced to abandon its national goal of independence, and Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Greece have no reason to suppose that they will succeed in regard to the Macedonians any more than the Turks did in their own cases. The alternative before the Balkan Peninsula to-day is to see Bolshevism admitted by a back door or to devise a formula which will satisfy the Macedonian craving for autonomy without prejudice to the interests of the Peninsula as a whole. If the Governments concerned accept the overtures of Todor Alexandroff, they may find the formula easier to discover than they have allowed themselves to anticipate. If, on the other hand, they do nothing to strengthen the more reasonable element among the Macedonians, they must inevitably drive the Organisation into the arms of the

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Bolshevists to the grave peril of every State in the Peninsula. It would seem suicidal to throw away such an opportunity of bringing peace to the Balkans, but to take the first step towards an understanding with the Macedonians will undoubtedly call for statesmanship of a higher order than that yet shown by any Balkan Government.

THE LAW OF MODERN EGYPT.*

(Continued.)

By SIR MALCOLM McILWRAITH, K.C.M.G., K.C.

Such, then, in general outline is the law in force in Egypt as regards both natives and foreigners. Excluding questions of personal statute—such as those last-mentioned matters of Moslem family law—it will be observed that, both as regards the law administered to natives and foreigners combined by the Mixed Tribunals, and as regards that administered to natives only by the Native Tribunals, it is, in reality, a system of almost pure and unadulterated French law. And this circumstance has been the dominant factor in the legal situation, ever since the establishment of these Mixed and Native Courts, in comparatively modern times. I call particular attention to this factor for two reasons: in the first place, it is little realised, or understood, in this country, most people not unnaturally supposing that, because Great Britain has been for so long in control of Egypt, the law of the country is of the British, or at least Anglo-Indian, type. In the second case, the circumstance itself furnishes the key to many of the difficulties we have encountered in our administration of Egypt, and explains why we have, on the whole, been less successful there in judicial administration than in most other branches of government. The reason for the original adoption of French models in legal affairs was the dominating influence and prestige acquired by France in Egypt throughout the middle of the nineteenth century, and more especially during the reign of Ismail Pasha, when the Mixed Tribunals were founded. One of the principal results of this influence and prestige was that the Egyptian official classes were chiefly educated in French traditions and mentality and by French methods. The only European language they had learned was French, and such of them as had studied law at all had studied it in France. Consequently, when it became necessary to choose a system of European law, to be worked by Egyptians and Europeans in collaboration, no other system than the French could possibly have been adopted. But the difficulties which this situation led to for ourselves, when, after the military occupation of 1882, we found ourselves obliged to assume responsibility for the legal and judicial administration of the country no less than for the rest, will readily be understood. How, and where, were we to find Englishmen competent to administer as judges, judicial functionaries, and legal advisers a system which, in its origin, and largely in its practice, was one of pure French law? The only countries in the Empire where English-speaking lawyers familiar with the principles of French law are to be found are Canada and Mauritius; and only in rare individual instances could any be transplanted from those countries. As a matter of fact, during the first ten years of the Occupation régime there were no Englishmen at all in Egypt in legal or judicial positions save the two or three judges in the Mixed Tribunals. The inconvenience of such a situation—having regard to Great Britain's responsibility for the government of the country—was particularly felt in what is called the "State Legal Department," or "Contentieux de l'Etat"—the body, that is to say, that not only represents the Government in all litigation in the Courts, but also drafts all new projects of law for the Mixed or the Native Legislature.

The whole of this work, for which at that time no natives could be found sufficiently competent as draftsmen, was in the hands of French and Italian lawyers. If I may be excused for intruding a word of personal reminiscence here, in order to illustrate the facts of the situation, I may mention that I was myself the first Englishman to be appointed to this department—and I owed my appointment, which was considered a startling innovation, mainly to the fact that I happened to have studied French law and taken a legal degree in Paris. We endeavoured later to induce other young men to train for the judicial service in the same way and many of them did so, to the subsequent advantage of their careers in Egypt. But the requirement of a French qualification, in addition to the English one of barrister or solicitor, naturally deterred many desirable applicants, and thus constituted in practice a very partial remedy.

But though the original adoption of French law as the basis of the Egyptian system will thus be seen to have been not only intelligible but inevitable, it may, perhaps, be less clear to my hearers why—as time went on, and more and more English lawyers entered the service of the Egyptian Government—the law could not have been more closely approximated to English and Anglo-Indian models. As a matter of fact, a good deal was done in this direction in individual portions of legislation from time to time, as may easily be seen from the volumes of Egyptian Government statutes for the last twenty or five-and-twenty years. But the disadvantages of any attempt at far-reaching changes of principle, or even fundamental alteration in methods, greatly outweighed—in the opinion of those at that time in control—any advantages likely to be derived from it. The question did, however, ultimately lead to an acute controversy, which had important consequences, and of which it is necessary to give some account, since it forms a material part of recent judicial history. After the War broke out and a British Protectorate had been proclaimed, a movement was started by certain British officials having for its object a fundamental break with tradition and a more or less openly avowed Anglicisation of the law and legal institutions of Egypt. Personally, throughout my long tenure of office as Judicial Adviser I had always opposed this policy whenever it cropped up—as it had done from time to time during the preceding fifteen years—believing it to be both impracticable and dangerous. And this for the following reasons: It was not a question of the relative advantages of French and English law, or of the intrinsic superiority of one system over the other in the abstract. One might be fully convinced—I am myself profoundly convinced—that the English system of, for instance, criminal law is both in its principles and its methods preferable to the French system.(1) The same may be said of civil procedure—round which the battle in its later stages mainly raged—as well as of various branches of commercial law. But

* Being part of an address delivered at Cambridge University on August 11 last.

[1] As a typical instance of the fairness of our system compared with the Continental practice I may recall that in the recent Crumbles murder case it was scrupulously concealed from the jury that the prisoner (Mahon) had already suffered several previous sentences, one being of five years' penal servitude for a murderous assault upon a woman. A French *acte d'accusation* relates in great detail every circumstance of the prisoner's career from his youth upwards which may possibly prejudice him in the eyes of the jury, often with gross exaggeration.

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we had not a *tabula rasa* to deal with, nor a tract of virgin territory inhabited by uncivilised races, to which one system of law could be as easily applied as another. Egypt is a land of a very ancient civilisation, and traditionally of a high degree of intellectual culture. In the past the West owes much in literature and science to the enlightenment, during our own dark ages, of Mahommedan rulers of Arab race. In such a country traditions are not easily eradicated. Moreover, in its modern aspect Egypt is an exceedingly cosmopolitan community, in which the British population is only one—and by no means the largest—of a number of foreign colonies. The law of France—that is to say, the Napoleonic Codes—had been, when this controversy first started, the basis of the modern legislation of Egypt for already a quarter of a century. That law is also the foundation of the legislation of most of the European countries from which the foreign colonies in Egypt are drawn. The Egyptian official classes had been educated in it alone for a generation. Apart from these weighty considerations of use and custom, French law is, by reason largely of the precision and lucidity of the language, clearer in form and more congenial in substance to the mass of the inhabitants of Egypt, both native and foreign, than would ever be, in my opinion, our own uncodified, largely unwritten, more or less inaccessible, and partially archaic system.

Both Lord Cromer and Lord Kitchener, with their unrivalled knowledge of the country—though certainly neither of them prejudiced in favour of French as opposed to English institutions—strongly shared these views as to the inadvisability and even danger of any fundamental change of system. Lord Cromer, indeed, with a view to allaying anxiety on this score, which he apprehended, made a solemn declaration to this effect in his Annual Report for 1905. He there said :—" *There is not, indeed, the smallest likelihood that an attempt will ever be made under British auspices to effect any radical change in the civil and criminal laws which at present generally obtain in Egypt, and which, after an experience of thirty years, have now taken root in the country. Nevertheless, some specific guarantee against any such change may not unreasonably be demanded. I propose, therefore, that both the British and Egyptian Governments should make a formal declaration to the effect that they have no intention of changing the fundamental principles of the existing civil and criminal legislation, which will continue, as heretofore, to be, in general, those of the European Codes, and more especially the Codes of the Latin nations. . . . .*" (See " Egypt," No. 1, 1906, p. 7).

However, after the outbreak of War and the changes in the higher personnel of the Executive in Egypt which it had involved, other counsels prevailed. This policy of Anglicisation in judicial affairs was more or less definitely adopted and persisted in for a time. The results proved disastrous. The policy alienated and alarmed the whole, very powerful body of the foreign judges of the Mixed Tribunals —representing fourteen different European nationalities—as well as the influential community of foreign advocates practising before them. It was little less unpopular with the Egyptian legal profession, the bulk of which, as before explained, had been trained in French traditions and mentality, and to whom Anglo-Saxon principles and methods were wholly alien. The cumulative effect of all these bitterly hostile influences was to add enormously to the difficulties with which we found ourselves confronted when political trouble broke out in March, 1919. At a time, when practically the whole native population was arrayed against us, we found ourselves morally isolated among the European colonies, and largely deprived of the sympathy and support which we should doubtless otherwise have received from the most powerful among them—the French and the Italians—to whom this policy was anathema. The policy in question collapsed completely in the midst of the political uproar and general upheaval to which it had materially contributed, and from which the country has not yet emerged. Lord Cromer's neglected warning has been fully vindicated. Nothing now remains of this fatal aberration save the deplorable consequences it produced. The blow it inflicted on our prestige—which stood so high throughout the Cromer-Kitchener era—and our reputation for consistency in our dealings with Oriental peoples, is not the least of the contributory causes of the collapse of the British regime in Egypt, with all the disastrous results (1) which that event is likely to entail for Egypt itself, ourselves, and the world at large.

(1) *Cf*, the speech of Viscount Grey of Fallodon in the House of Lords: " He was told by people who had been in Egypt lately, and who knew what was going on, that practically all the work and administration of Lord Cromer, of which they were all so proud, had either absolutely gone or was going"—See *The Times*, of June 26, 1924.

Seventeen persons were killed and over 30 injured in an explosion at the powder factory at Makrikeui, near Constantinople, last Saturday.

The body of Major Imbrie, the murdered United States Consul, reached Bushire on August 24 from Basra, and was received by the Persians with full honours. The United States warship *Trenton* arrived the following day, and the body was taken on board with due ceremonial at noon. The *Trenton* sailed for America the same evening.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Future of the Exhibition.

It is as yet undecided whether the Wembley Exhibition shall be continued into 1925 or not. While the balance of opinion is undoubtedly in favour of going on, it is doubtful whether all the Dominions and Colonies will be prepared to continue their participation. The question at issue is how far the results of the Exhibition are likely to justify the expenditure involved. On this point the statement in regard to one of the participants that more has been accomplished so far by means of Wembley than would have been done individually in many years is illuminating. In this case the results have been evident, but the invisible consequences of the Exhibition are likely to be even more important than the visible, and, even if another year means a considerable loss, it would seem to be an expenditure worth while.

The Impending Competition.

The effect of the London Agreement has been to concentrate attention here on the trade situation; and, in general, the view taken as to the outlook is anything but optimistic. To mark the seriousness of the position we have the growing figures of unemployment, which, it may be added, commenced to creep up as soon as the McKenna duties were removed. Naturally, the question is asked if this happens when Germany is still a negligible competitor, what will be the result when this is not the case. An interesting sidelight on the change in opinion brought about by the situation is forthcoming from the speeches at the Trade Union Congress. It has been suggested that ultimately Labour must become Protectionist in its own interests, and it would seem that the leaven is working rapidly, judging by the criticism directed against the Dawes scheme. It is not surprising that there should be anxiety as to the outlook in the coal industry, but it may be pointed out that those who are now so strongly declaiming against impending foreign competition must share in the responsibility for the verdict at the last election, the effect of which was to take away our power to counteract the tariffs that have been raised against us on all sides.

Anglo-Austrian Bank.

At the general meeting of the Anglo-Austrian Bank a very interesting and most encouraging review of conditions in Central Europe was given by the Chairman, Sir Herbert A. Lawrence. He dealt first with Austria, and pointed out that in 1923 there was a general tendency to further consolidation, and that in the present year the process of re-establishment has been carried one step farther. Then as regards Hungary, he referred to the successful placing of the £12,000,000 reconstruction loan by the bank. As a pre-eminently agricultural nation Hungary's recovery, he pointed out, was much less dependent than Austria's on factors outside her own control. He added that the bank's branch in Budapest has enjoyed a most successful year.

Progress in Yugoslavia.

Sir Herbert went on to refer with satisfaction to the settlement of the Fiume question, and pointed out that the bank has a special concern in the existence of good relations and active trade between Yugoslavia and Italy, where its interests are large and increasing. "Yugoslavia," he continued, "now has a balanced Budget, and her economic as well as her political position has been much improved both by the conclusion of the treaty with Italy and by the acquisition of a free zone at Salonika. Both through our own branches and through our participation, which we have this year increased, in the prosperous and successful Kroatische Escomptebank, we were enabled to play a part in the development of this very promising country." Turning to Czecho-Slovakia, he said that the same improving tendency is in evidence in that country, where the bank's interests are represented by the Anglo-Czecho-Slovakian Bank. "Czecho-Slovakia," he added, "has acquired, under the guidance of statesmen like President Masaryk, Dr. Benes, and the regretted Dr. Rasin, a reputation for solidity and stability which some older States might envy." Finally, he mentioned that there has been a great improvement in the business of the bank's branches at Cernauti and Oradea Mare in Roumania.

The Parity of the Rupee.

For some weeks now the rupee exchange has shown a slight tendency to appreciate, and at the time of writing it stands round about 1s. 5½d. This reflects the somewhat improved position in India, but it must be emphasised that there is not much likelihood of any further substantial advance towards what is now generally regarded as the very nominal parity of 2s., and it will probably be found in the future, when conditions have settled down, that the rate will be stabilised, with, of course, seasonal fluctuations, in the neighbourhood of 1s. 4d. It is much to be regretted that a change was ever made in the parity of the rupee, but it is so much to the good to know that it is now the policy of the Indian Government to establish the rupee on a 1s. 4d. gold basis as soon as possible.

COMMENTATOR.

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED

(Founded 1866).

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Branch: 11, Calea Victoriei, Bucarest.

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C. De CERJAT, Esq.
General The Hon. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P., P.C.
Lieut-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

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A general Banking business with Roumania is conducted and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

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British Consular Reports.

VI.—YUGOSLAVIA.—Continued.

Yugoslavia is said to be third in order of importance of the silk-producing countries of Europe; its annual production of raw cocoons being estimated at 2,500,000 kilogrammes. The principal silk-producing districts are the Sumadija district of Serbia, South Serbia, and the Vojvodina.

The cocoons are sent to the State factories at Liubliana, Pancevo, Novi Sad, and Djevdjelija, where they are treated, the raw silk produced being principally sold on the Zurich Exchange.

Foreign Trade.

Great progress has been made during 1923 in Yugoslavia's export trade. Complete statistics for 1923 are not yet available, but from the figures which have already appeared and from material collected by Chambers of Commerce throughout the country, it would appear that for the first time since the war the country is within measurable distance of an "active" balance of trade, and many experts believe that exports will be found to be considerably in excess of imports in value. The increase in exportation is due in a large measure to the low exchange value of the dinar during a great part of the year and to the reduction of export taxes.

Trade with Great Britain.

Yugoslavia's trade with Great Britain has increased as regards both exportation and importation during the post-War years. According to figures published for the first six months of 1923, Great Britain provided for that period 8.6 per cent. of the total of Yugoslavia's imports, while in 1920 the percentage was only 7 per cent.

Statistics of exportation show that in 1920 only 0.25 per cent. of Yugoslav exports went to the United Kingdom, whereas the latter took 2.3 per cent. of Yugoslav exports for the first ten months of 1923.

Textiles (including yarns) naturally hold the first place among the articles exported from Great Britain to Yugoslavia. Czecho-Slovakia and Italy are the chief competitors in this market, and the latter especially is making strenuous efforts to monopolise this trade. Italy enjoys the advantage of proximity to Yugoslavia; one is always hearing of the adaptability of her manufacturers as compared with the alleged conservatism of the British manufacturer; and Italy is now producing, at prices considerably lower than those of the Lancashire product, the special types of yarn suited to the Balkan markets. This trade has hitherto been largely in the hands of British manufacturers. Merchants affirm that the representatives of Italian manufacturers offer to send trial consignments of yarn on the understanding that if the merchandise is not sold within a certain time they will take it back. The importation of printed cotton flannels, mostly from Italy and Czecho-Slovakia, is steadily increasing. Here again the Italian manufacturer is said to be more accommodating than his British rival, as he will print to special order a comparatively small consignment of material, while the British exporter will not do this.

The financial stringency experienced during 1923 affected the sale of British goods in more ways than one. For instance, those who prefer to buy British textile goods in normal times have been driven to purchase inferior articles of lower price, although realising that they obtained less value for their outlay.

So far there has been very little export of machinery and metal goods from Great Britain to Yugoslavia; but with the cessation of reparation deliveries from Germany and the increase in the prices of German-made machinery, prospects of trade in this direction are more promising. Non-ferrous metals continue to find a small but regular market. The importance of the personal element and the desirability of visiting their customers at least once a year is again urged upon exporters interested in Yugoslavia.

The abnormally mild weather experienced during the autumn, which lasted well into the winter months, was productive of difficulties for the wholesale textile importers. The small provincial merchants were unable to dispose of their winter goods to the peasants, and were, therefore, driven to ask for extension of the credit allowed them by the importer.

Railways.

A gradual improvement can again be reported in railway communications. That the railways of the country were able to deal with the enormous increase in export trade during 1923 is in itself evidence of improved efficiency.

The fact that a number of new railway lines are being constructed out of revenues is worthy of notice. Under this heading come the following:—Completed: Subotica-Senta-Velika Kikinda, 96.5 km.; Topcider-Mala Krsna, 66 km.; Paracin-Stalac, 18.5 km. In construction: Gracac-Knin, 65 km.; Veles Stip, 60 km.; Ljutomir-Ormos-Murska Subota, 38 km.; Bihac-Krupa, 33 km.; Titel Orlovat, 28 km.; Pozarevac-Mala Krsna, with bridge, 16.5 km.; Tisa bridge, 1 km.; Vardiste-Uzice, 56 km. In addition, surveys are being made for a number of other lines.

The agreement concluded in March, 1923, at Rome between Yugoslavia, Italy, Austria, and Hungary having been ratified, Yugoslavia took over, together with all rolling-stock and personnel, that portion of the Südbahn Company's system, including local railways worked by the company, which fell to the new State under the Treaties of Peace. During the autumn a new railway direction under the Ministry of Communications was established at Liubliana. By the acquisition of this part of the Südbahn the nationalisation of a further 800 kilometres or so of railways in Yugoslav territory has been effected.

By Article 26 of the Law of Budget Twelfths for the months of July, August, and September, 1923, the S.C.S. Government was authorised to purchase those sections of the railways of the Oriental Railway Company and the Salonika-Bitolj (Monastir) Company "which are of interest to the country." The Government duly acquired by purchase from the companies the sections of these lines in Yugoslav territory; and it would appear from a debate in the Skupstina on February 5 that the purchase also includes the company's interests in the line as far as Salonika.

At a meeting of the directors of Furness Withy and Co., last week, Mr. E. H. Murrant and Mr. H. Smurthwaite, who have been associated with the company for many years, were elected to seats on the Board.

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Near East Markets.

CROP CONDITIONS IN IRAQ.

The Agricultural Bulletin of Iraq for the month ended July 15 states :—

The total rainfall for the season at Hinaidi up to the end of June, 1924, is 4.93 ins., as compared with an average of 6.88 ins. for the same period in Baghdad. Very light showers of rain were experienced near Baghdad and Baqubah. These were of no importance agriculturally, but being very unusual for the time of year are worthy of record.

Another unusual feature was the appearance of very heavy clouds throughout the month. These, according to Arab opinion, predict cold weather and early rains. Past experience, however, goes to show that the Arab as a weather prophet is not very reliable. Weather conditions, generally, were favourable to plant growth, and the absence of continuous strong winds, usual to this time of year, materially assisted the progress of summer crops, especially cotton.

Harvesting of wheat has been completed, and threshing commenced as soon as permitted by assessment committees. Owing to the poor condition of the wheat and barley crops, complaints of over-assessment appear to be more numerous this year than in previous years.

According to reports from Basrah, there appear to be good prospects of the date crop coming up to average. The bulk of the Halawi crop is reputed to be free from disease, and in one particular stretch it is estimated that the yield will be as much as 30 per cent. above that of last year. Khadrawi dates are likewise reported free from "Ghubbar" disease, but on the left bank of the Shatt-el-Arab Sayer dates are expected to yield 15 per cent. below average.

On the canal areas of Central Iraq the Dukhn crop bids fair to be well above average. Harvesting of early sown dukhn has commenced.

Cotton promises well so far. Most encouraging reports have been received from all cotton-growing areas. Climatic conditions have been very favourable, but it is necessary to wait until the season is further advanced before making any definite pronouncement as to the crop's prospects. Spotted bollworm made its appearance early in June, but as yet the attack has not become severe. Arab cultivators have made rapid advances in their methods of cultivating cotton. This year there appears to be an all-round improvement over previous years, and quite a number of the more progressive cultivators have succeeded in raising what promises to be first-class crops. Cotton picking is expected to commence about the third week in July.

The Department of Agriculture has undertaken to reel silk at Baqubah at Rs. 3 per lb. in order to encourage the silk industry. The amount of cocoons produced this year as compared with last year is :—1923, 784 kilos; 1924, 1,568 kilos. Valuations have come to hand of the flax grown in 1923 at Baqubah. These are encouraging, although there is a wide range between the lowest and highest. The fibre has been valued from £85 per ton to £140, while the tow ranges from £50 to £60. Arrangements are now being made to deal with the 1924 crop.

Sugar Cane has made satisfactory growth, and tillering has been fairly good in most varieties.

Spotted bollworm has been found on "Jiljil," ladies fingers, and hollyhock in gardens at Fellujah, where no cotton is grown within a distance of six or seven miles.

The July to June exports of wheat from Iraq were 81,898 tons, and of barley 105,084 tons—total 186,982 tons, as compared with 190,741 tons for the same period in 1922-23. The total export of the 1923 crop of dates to the end of June, 1924, was 123,641 tons, valued at Rs. 15,654,808, as compared with 108,045 tons, valued at Rs. 13,103,319, for the corresponding season last year. The July to June exports of wool were 7,720 tons, as compared with 2,091 tons for the same period of 1922-1923.

SMYRNA MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. report as follows for the week ended August 23 :—The arrivals on the Smyrna market are estimated at 4,460 tons and the sales to date are put at 3,910 tons. Closing prices per cwt. c.i.f. London-Liverpool :—Type 12, 42s.; 13, 43s.; 14, 47s.; 15, 50s.; 16, 53s.

The market has ruled firm over the week. Demand has been on an active scale, as is evidenced by the extent of the sales (2,400 tons for the week). Although closing prices were firmly maintained, it is probable that, with the increasing volume of daily arrivals, a lower level of values will gradually be established. The weather is keeping fine, and in another ten days the danger of damage to the crop will be largely eliminated.

RAW MATERIALS OF THE EMPIRE.

Visitors to the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley cannot fail to be impressed, not only by the enormous supplies of raw materials already produced within the Empire, but also by the vast resources which still await development. Almost every variety of raw material required for food or in industry is available in some part of the Empire, and it is one of the objects of the Exhibition to bring home to the people of this country the importance of utilising to the full the products of British countries overseas.

In this connection it is opportune to refer to the work which has been carried out for many years by the Imperial Institute, in co-operation with the Technical Departments throughout the Empire, to promote the use of new or little-known products of all kinds from the Dominions and Colonies. The

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Institute has an exhibit in H.M. Government Pavilion at Wembley illustrating the nature and scope of its operations, and all who are concerned with the production and utilisation of raw materials will find there something of interest.

The exhibits consist of typical examples of raw materials which have been investigated by the Institute in order to determine their possible uses and value in industry. There is an attractive collection of Empire timbers which have been examined recently, in conjunction with the Timbers Committee of the Institute, with a view to their introduction into commerce. Materials suitable for paper-making are represented by specimens of timbers, grasses, and waste fibrous products, together with samples of the paper made from them. Raw cottons are shown from Tanganyika and Iraq, countries which promise to contribute largely in future to the requirements of the Lancashire cotton spinning industry. An interesting collection of silk cocoons, reeled silk and fabrics made therefrom, calls attention to the endeavours of the Imperial Institute Silk Committee to extend the production of silk within the Empire. The investigations of plantation rubber, in connection with the Ceylon Rubber Research Scheme, are also illustrated. Other sections include seeds yielding oils for edible purposes or industrial use; essential oils used in perfumery; Empire-grown tobaccos; resins for varnish making; tanning materials, and drugs. In addition there is a collection of economic minerals, comprising coals from Nigeria, Nyasaland and Somaliland; raw materials for the manufacture of pottery, bricks and tiles, and cement, with specimens of the products made at the Institute; radioactive minerals from various sources within the Empire; metallic ores; and miscellaneous minerals.

A pamphlet has been issued giving an account of the investigations of these various materials, together with a general description of the principal departments of the Institute. Copies can be obtained without charge at the Imperial Institute exhibit at Wembley, or on application to the Director, Imperial Institute.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Anglo-Austrian Bank.

The report of the Anglo-Austrian Bank, Ltd., for the year ended December 31, 1923, states that the net profit for the year 1923 amounted to £85,032 17s. 10d., to which must be added the amount of the balance carried forward, shown in the last report, £20,620 6s., leaving a balance available of £105,653 3s. 10d. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend on the preference shares of 6 per cent., which will involve the payment of £24,000, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £81,653 3s. 10d. Certain of the Austrian branches proved unremunerative, and it was consequently decided to close those at Bruck a/Mur, Gars a/Kamp, Gmünd, Graz Südbahnhof, Horn, Kufstein, Mürzzuschlag, Schwechat, Steyr, and Villach-Südbahnhof. The sub-branch at Suczawa, in Roumania, was also closed. On the other hand, the bank has received authorisation from the Italian Govenment to open a branch at Milan.

In 1923 the total expenses in Austria were more than double those in 1922, and the current year will show a still further increase. This is in consequence of certain legislative requirements and agreements between employers and staff which, in general, date from 1919. At the same time, the staff is far larger than is now required. It has been decided that drastic reductions must be made, and the matter is engaging the serious attention of the board. The directors have thought it wise to carry forward the substantial sum of £81,653 3s. 10d., so as to be prepared for contingencies in connection with this policy. Apart from the situation arising in Austria from this excessive expenditure, the bank has shown a steady and satisfactory development in London and in its other branches. A Stock Exchange and monetary depression, the natural reaction from the optimism displayed in the previous year, characterised the spring and summer of 1924. The fluctuations of the franc early this year precipitated and aggravated the crisis. The Hungarian reconstruction scheme has been put into operation, and great hopes are entertained of its success.

The stocks, shares, syndicates, and participations appear in the balance-sheet at a figure of £1,898,849 2s. 3d. Of this amount, about £1,000,000 is represented by holdings in allied banks in Czecho-Slovakia and Yugoslavia. The industrial position in Czecho-Slovakia has steadily improved, which is satisfactory in view of the holding of shares in the Anglo-Czecho-Slovakian Bank. The commercial situation in Yugoslavia is also improving, and the bank's interests in that country, among which is the holding in the Croatian Discount Bank, render good returns.

Imperial Bank of India.

The report of the Imperial Bank of India for the half-year ended June 30 states that the net profits of the bank for the half-year amounted to Rs.78,81,700, which, with Rs.10,21,157 brought forward from the half-year ended December 31, made a total of Rs.89,02,857. This sum the Governors of the bank disposed of as follows:— In payment of a dividend to the shareholders at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum free of income tax, Rs.45,00,000; transferred to reserve fund, Rs.12,50,000; transferred to pension funds, Rs.5,00,000; transferred to premises account, Rs.5,00,000; carried forward to profit and loss account of the current half-year, Rs.21,52,857.12; total, Rs.89,02,857.12.

Since the publication of the report for the half-year ended December 31, new branches have been opened at Chandpur, Dhanbad, Farrukhabad, and Godhra, and further branches will shortly be opened at Bhagalpur, Ellore, Gujranwala, Jherria, Katni, Ludhiana, Mirzapur, and Montgomery.

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AN IMPRESSION OF WEMBLEY.

The Art of the East.

BY HECTOR BOLITHO.

Wembley is an exhibition of realities. One hundred years ago pioneers sailed from England, and they awakened Canada, Australia, and New Zealand from the romanticism of semi-slumber to the realities of commerce. Then the legends of the aboriginals in Australia and the Maoris in New Zealand and the charm of their uncivilised existence ended. A cruder, more practical life was introduced, and that crude, practical resignation to the commercial slogans of 1924 has dominated the pavilions of these countries at Wembley. Butter, wool, meat, grain, and cheese are here in mountains. These things feed the hunger and the pockets of the time, and that is no doubt a more worthy achievement. But against all the unemotional, obvious expressions of these new lands there are the older places—India, Malaya, and Burma—Eastern miniatures in a Western setting.

I know Wembley very well by now. I know most of the countries displaying their produce there. Dismissing the commercial aspect of the vast Exhibition, it is interesting to see how faithfully each pavilion reflects the mentality and temperament of the country of which it is the expression. The Australian is an unromantic, sentimental, true-hearted, but obvious man. His pavilion at Wembley is his mirror. As a commercial exhibition it is almost without fault. But the decoration of the vast building is disappointing, because Australia is still too young a country to have evolved an art of its own, still too unwise a country to reject the medley of Greek, Roman, French, and English ideas which give it a mixed and bad tradition. It is because India and Burma have not come to England with anything but their own art (the word is hideous through ill-usage) that they have given grace and beauty to Wembley with their buildings.

New Zealand uses English Renaissance architecture and venetian poles and says she is expressing herself. India comes with her own minarets and delicate carving, and she does not need the signwriter's brazen letters to tell the visitor where she comes from. Burma, with her delicate teak-wood pagodas crowned by fairy bells, is the very spirit of the land of which this pavilion is the miniature.

Sweeping all the commercial aspects of the Exhibition aside, it is a matter for congratulation that these Eastern places have come contented with their own architecture. Australia's pavilion has a mixture of Greek, Roman, and Cockney accents. New Zealand has every accent but her own. Canada is similarly cosmopolitan, and only West Africa, South Africa, Malaya, India, and Burma have had the courage and the good sense to come to Wembley contented to speak their own tongue in art.

The East has always been swathed in romance . . . even for those who imagine that it has been manufactured according to the designs of Omar Khayyam and the English theatre. To these it is a romantic muddle of colour and incense. Actually, it is a world which had grown old in all things while this Western Hemisphere was still in its intellectual swaddling clothes. But, even without that emotional and sentimental love for what is described as "things Oriental," the East has an unending lure for everybody. In New Zealand, where I lived for twenty years, I never read any books on the "East" except an occasional volume by Lafcadio Hearn or Pierre Loti, and my knowledge of this vague "East" was very meagre. But I was conscious of its magnetism all the time. It is that almost inherent response that makes one experience a thrilling joy at the sight of the Indian, Burma, and Malaya Pavilions at Wembley. At night Canada becomes a block of blackness—a flat mountain without character.

India, with its frail minarets pointing their Eastern fingers at the western sky, is India all night. The silhouette defies the darkness. Thus it expresses its country as the other buildings can never do. I have been at Wembley very late at night—when the three million lights were extinguished and only the night watchman's lamps pricked little holes in the immaculate black. But even then you could hear the tender tunes of the Burmese bells all the night through.

A building has as much mentality as a man; sometimes more. Looking at the Indian pavilion, I am conscious of the long journey India has made through time, accumulating, eliminating, suffering, triumphing, with no intrusion of mixed ideas, fixedly expressing herself, if it is in a Taj Mahal or a little ivory ball you might toss into the air.

These other lands, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are in the very chrysalis of self-expression. Out of the half developed will no doubt come the tremendous tornado of realism, distinct from the old tradition. But these newer countries are still sturdy stumbling children. Their hands have grown so accustomed to the heavy curve of the spade that they cannot adapt their touch to the delicate technique of the paint brush. These things are not achieved in one or even five generations.

It is because India is old and grand, mellow with innumerable yesterdays, that she has been able to come across the world, plan out the English acres and build a pavilion which trembles like a spiritual temple—a mirage set among the unimaginative pavilions, pavilions which are buildings in the most concrete sense of the word.

Eastern people have come to Wembley in their thousands. What their pavilions convey to them does not matter very much. What those pavilions convey to strangers, to people who, like myself, have known none but the far-spreading undecorated landscapes of the Antipodes, is deeply important. The impression is divided between the mind and the emotions, that is after you have dismissed the commercial purpose of the whole Exhibition as being obvious enough to take care of itself. Even in those Indian stalls where produce is exhibited, the artists and designers have imprisoned the century old wisdom of their land. To me these Indian and Burmese buildings tell the story of the wisdom of the Eastern people and the emotional courage of their lives. There is repose—which is a grand thing—without restraint—which is a cowardly thing.

India, Burma, and Malaya will no doubt reap many returns for the trouble they have taken to expose their Eastern products before Western eyes. No doubt some skilled statistician, in ten years' time, will be able to tell us exactly how much money these countries made on their outlay at Wembley. But I don't suppose anybody, except people such as myself, who blow the thistledown of their impressions over a rather unheeding field, will trouble to realise how splendidly and completely these pavilions bring beauty into a place which is rather barren of it.

It is reported that Czecho-Slovakia's hop yield this year will be excellent, both as regards quality and quantity.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the eleven days ended July 31, amounted to £E8,940, making the total from April 1, £E85,748.

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Company Meetings.

ANGLO-AUSTRIAN BANK.

London Office Well Established.

The second ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Austrian Bank, Ltd., was held on August 29 at Winchester House, E.C. General the Hon. Sir H. A. Lawrence, K.C.B. (Chairman of the company), presided.

The Secretary (Mr. M. McK. Turnbull) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—In the balance sheet laid before you you will notice a general increase in the figures as compared with last year, showing that there has been a satisfactory expansion of our business. On the liabilities side, the current, deposit, and other accounts have risen from roughly £4½ million to roughly £7¼ million. The business of our London office on the one hand, and that of our Continental branches on the other, have contributed about equally to this increase. On the credit side our liquid resources have increased in proportion. Our investments, it may interest you to know, are by no means held in one country alone, but are partitioned approximately as follows:—Austria 33 per cent., Czecho-Slovakia 45 per cent., Yugoslavia 11 per cent., Hungary and miscellaneous 11 per cent.=100 per cent.

The sundry debtors have increased by about £1½ million, as compared with the increase already mentioned in current, deposit, and other accounts, of roughly £3 million. From the profit and loss account you will see that our profits also show an improving tendency; but, following the accepted practice of new institutions in this country, we have decided, especially having regard to conditions in Vienna, to carry forward our whole profit, after, of course, paying the 6 per cent. on the preference shares.

The London office is now well established and shows steady and satisfactory development. This year we show our liabilities for acceptances, guarantees, etc., under separate headings. Our acceptances are growing slowly but steadily, great care being taken in the selection of this business, which is most strictly limited to transactions genuinely reflecting the movement of commodities; and its expansion is, in our view, a fair indication of a general improvement of trade conditions in Central Europe.

Operating as we do in six Continental countries, we naturally watch with sympathy, and assist to the best of our power, any movement towards the restoration of normal conditions and the increase of production. Last year I took the opportunity to recount briefly the story of Austria's transformation in 1922 from her apparently hopeless post-war position to a state of hopefulness and self-confidence. The year 1923 was characterised by a general tendency to further consolidation, and in 1924 the process of re-establishment was carried one step further. After lengthy negotiations, the scheme for the financial reconstruction of Hungary under League supervision was finally approved by all those concerned, and in June and July, 1924, the £12 million Reconstruction Loan was, with the co-operation of the Anglo-Austrian Bank, successfully placed in the different lending countries.

Another very important step forward was the conclusion of a Treaty between Yugoslavia and Italy, which, by settling the Fiume question, has removed a cause of grave economic and political friction. We have a special concern in the existence of good relations and active trade between these two countries, where our interests are large and increasing. In Italy, our Trieste branch has enjoyed a prosperous year, a consequence of the great improvement in the traffic of the port of Trieste. Our Italian business will be extended by the opening of a branch at Milan, for which we have now received the authorisation of the Italian Government.

Yugoslavia now has a balanced budget, and her economic as well as her political position has been much improved both by the conclusion of the Treaty with Italy, to which I have already referred, and by the acquisition of a free zone at Salonika. Both through our own branches and through our participation, which we have this year increased, in the prosperous and successful Kroatische Escomptebank, we were enabled to play a part in the development of this very promising country.

The same upward tendency, based on growing confidence and the experience of stability, is visible in Czecho-Slovakia, where our interests are safeguarded by the Anglo-Czecho-Slovakian Bank. This institution, which is still in its first youth, shows good promise for the future. Czecho-Slovakia has acquired under the guidance of statesmen like President Masaryk, Dr. Benes, and the regretted Dr. Rasin, a reputation for solidity and stability which some older States might envy. Doubts have sometimes been cast upon the wisdom of the financial policy initiated by Dr. Rasin, and continued after his death by Dr. Becka. These should be laid to rest by the fact that this year has seen a slight yet unmistakable industrial revival especially in the glass and sugar industries. The Anglo-Czecho-Slovakian Bank has earned good profits which it is deemed wise at this stage to devote wholly to the consolidation of the institution. We believe it will take its full share in the reviving prosperity of the country. Last May the Czecho-Slovak Government decided to raise the remaining portion of the 8 per cent. loan on the London, New York, and Amsterdam Bourses. In the first quarter of 1924, the revenue hypothecated to the service of this loan exceeded the service requirements by about 12 times.

In Roumania our two branches at Cernauti and Oradea Mare have witnessed a great improvement in their business. The former for reasons of economy has closed its sub-branch at Suczawa, transferring the business to the main office. It is not yet quite clear to what extent the co-operation of foreign effort in the development of Roumania's remarkable natural resources is going to be welcomed.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

AFRICAN AND EASTERN TRADE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Annual Ordinary General Meeting.

Mr. J. H. Batty (chairman of directors), presiding over the annual ordinary general meeting of the African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd., at Liverpool, last Friday, said there had been an improved demand for products exported from West Africa, and the quantities exported had materially increased. The outlook was certainly more encouraging. In 1923 there was a striking increase in the exports from Nigeria of palm oil, palm kernels and ground nuts. There were no less than 90,000 tons of palm oil, 225,000 tons of palm kernels, and 60,000 tons of ground nuts exported, and it was anticipated that, although these figures constitute a record, they should see them materially exceeded in the present year. It was satisfactory to report that palm oil was coming more under the category of an edible fat, and during the past twelve months very considerable quantities had been absorbed for edible purposes. He looked to a great future for palm oil in supplying the world's needs in this direction. He was glad to say a great deal had been done in the past year towards the reduction, and wherever possible the removal, of excessive taxation. It was eminently satisfactory that in every instance where relief had been given there had been an almost immediate improvement in trade and increased revenue. However, there was no disguising the fact that competition was very keen, and a large proportion of the trade was done on an inadequate margin of profit; therefore, though the volume of business was increasing, they must not look to profits increasing in ratio whilst the present competition continues.

The Chairman referred to the loss the Corporation had sustained by the death of Mr. Edwin Beazley, one of the directors; the appointment of Sir Hugh Clifford, Governor of Nigeria, to be Governor of Ceylon, whom Mr. Batty described as one of the greatest Governors they had ever had on the West Coast; and of the prospects the Corporation have of finding oil in payable quantities at Half Assinie in the Gold Coast Colony. He also referred to the freight agreement between the West African shipping lines, and said that experience had probably shown them that it was only by such mutual understanding they could obtain an adequate return on the capital employed. This example may give cause for reflection to other interests in the trade.

A final dividend on the ordinary shares of 4 per cent., less tax, was declared, making, with 4 per cent. interim already paid, a total dividend for the year of 8 per cent.

The retiring directors, Messrs J. H. Batty, A. A. Cowan, and Major-General Grey, were unanimously re-elected; and the auditors, Messrs, Harmood Banner and Son, were re-appointed.

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Shipping Intelligence.

GRAVOSA: A GROWING PORT.

Yugoslav Trade with Great Britain.

The British Vice-Consul at Gravosa, Mr. R. K. Leeper, in a review of the trade and shipping of that port in 1923, states :—

Before the late War, Gravosa was included in the Austrian Empire, and was of no international importance as a seaport. It was hardly the policy of Austria to develop the Dalmatian Coast, so that the chief trade of Gravosa was in those days with Trieste or Fiume, to which, with the exception of timber, she sent most of her exports and from which she received practically all her imports. Softwood, the chief article of export, was sent mainly to neighbouring countries bordering on the Adriatic. Direct trade between Gravosa and England was non-existent, with the exception of some imports of South Wales coal and coke.

To-day the conditions have changed entirely. Dalmatia is now part of the new kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and Gravosa is the chief outlet for the overseas traffic of the kingdom. Whereas formerly commercial houses in the new provinces, now comprising Yugoslavia, received their imports and sold their exports through distributing agents in Vienna and Budapest, they are now, owing to the changed political and economic conditions brought about through the War, eager to find direct markets in foreign countries. The result is that there has been an enormous increase in direct business relationship between these new provinces of Yugoslavia and Great Britain. Most of the increased traffic has passed through Gravosa, so that the port, which ten years ago handled only a relatively small coastal trade, is now the centre of a large transit traffic, and serves a vast hinterland extending to Zagreb, Subotica, Belgrade, and Nish.

Most of the traffic through Gravosa is to-day in transit, very little of it having its origin or final destination in the port or immediate vicinity. The mountainous Dalmatian Coast is, notwithstanding its natural beauty, quite unable to support anything but a poor, thinly scattered population, whose needs are very limited. Amongst the articles which find a market in Dalmatia are flour, sugar, coffee, rice, lard, soap, paraffin petrol, motor tyres, cottons and shirtings, sulphate of copper, fishing nets and sewing machines.

Motor Tyres.—Italian and German products are to the fore, but certain well-known brands of British tyres are frequently to be seen and appear to be popular. There is a fair demand for tyres both in Dubrovnik and Cattaro—the latter in connection with the motor services into Montenegro.

Cottons and Shirtings.—Here the Italians have got practically the whole of the Dalmatian trade in their hands. The Dalmatian peasant demands a special quality of calico for the women's summer dresses and the men's summer suits and shirts, and this the Italian manufacturers have studied to a nicety, whereas the British manufacturer has ignored the Dalmatian market completely. There appears to be no reason why Manchester should not do a good trade in Dalmatia, but for this are wanted, firstly, British travellers on the spot to display their samples and study the local requirements; and, secondly, favourable terms of payment. Yugoslav merchants, as a whole, do not like to pay cash with order, especially to people with whom they are not accustomed to do business. Most importers are, however, willing to give a bank guarantee with order and accept a bill of exchange at 30, 60, or 90 days against shipping documents with a bank in this country, but it seems to be a custom of the country that merchants do not like to have this bill of exchange endorsed by a bank. This is probably due to the very high rates of interest the banks charge for the whole period of the bill on the amount they are called upon to guarantee. British merchants would, however, do well not to turn down too readily offers from this country on the above lines, simply because they do not know the firm which makes the offer. British exporters should refer to British Consular representatives in this country in regard to ascertaining the credit of the local firms with which they propose dealing.

Salt, the second largest commodity imported, is a Government monopoly, and is supplied by public tender, generally from Sicily. British salt firms do not appear to have taken much interest in these tenders. Coke represents the largest import of any single commodity from the United Kingdom. During the last six months of the year, 2,256 tons were imported, as against 5,800 tons of coke and 2,371 tons of coal during the year 1912, and 14,259 tons of coke in 1910. The imports of coke, mostly for the Government ironworks at Vares, in Bosnia, are therefore not yet up to the pre-War figure, though there is reason to suppose that next year will show a considerable increase in the quantity imported. The imports of cottons, cotton yarn,

£435,000

has been expended by the Union Government on irrigating the fertile lands comprised in the

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woollens, iron sheets, tin plates, etc., are practically all in transit up country.

The growth of the export trade of this port with Great Britain is even more striking. Here again practically all the traffic is in transit from up-country, the exports of Dalmatia being but small, if one excludes the large cement trade from Spalato district and calcium carbide from Sebenico. The statistics do not distinguish between the exports to various countries, but whereas exports from Gravosa to England in pre-War days were nil, they now amount to about 5,000 metric tons per month. A few items in the exports from Gravosa in the last half of 1923 call for special comment. Slavonian oak was well known in Great Britain before the War under the name of Austrian oak, but not so Bosnian softwood, which now forms a large part of the exports of this country to Great Britain. The ordinary white fir, if perhaps not of such a good quality as the Baltic product, is, however, cheaper and finds a ready market in England at present. It is, however, the black pine and red pine, of which Bosnia has a large supply, that appears to be in greatest demand in Great Britain, both for railway and mining timbers. Ferro-silicon is another Bosnian production which has found a new and steadily-growing market in Great Britain, and appears to be able to hold its own with that from Scandinavia. The Bosnian prune is now marketed in Great Britain under its own name, and it is pleasing to note that, owing to the measures taken by the Yugoslav Government to ensure proper curing and packing, there have been no complaints from Great Britain regarding the condition of the 1923 crop. Whereas in 1922 less than 3 per cent. of Yugoslavia's total exports went to Great Britain, in 1923 the figure amounted to over 11 per cent.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malia for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 6).

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 8).

British India Line.—S.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 12); s.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 13).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan MacBride for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, September 17).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Exeter for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 15).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Polo for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (London, September 6).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 6); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 20); s.s. Tramore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, closing October 18).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, September 5); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcuttta (London, September 6); s.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London, September 19).

THE TRADE OF INDIA.

Increase in Imports.

H. M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India (Mr. T. M. Ainscough, O.B.E.), in a survey of the trade of India during the first three months of the current statistical year, viz., April 1 to June 30, states:—

During the three months, as compared with the corresponding period of 1923, the value of the imports into India increased by Rs.1,40 lakhs, or 2 per cent., to nearly Rs.60 crores, while the total exports, including re-exports, decreased by Rs.1 crore, or 1 per cent., to Rs.89 crores. The grand total of imports, exports, and re-exports amounted to Rs.149 crores, being the same as in the corresponding three months of 1923.

The total imports from the United Kingdom declined from Rs.36,50 lakhs to Rs. 34,96 lakhs, and the British share of the total trade was reduced from 62.6 per cent. to 58.6 per cent. Germany, however, increased her share from 5.18 per cent. to 5.98 per cent. owing to a steady increase distributed over all the articles which she normally supplies to India. The Belgian share rose from 2.14 to 2.81 per cent., mainly on account of shipments of iron and steel being expedited in order to arrive before the new Steel Tariff came into force. The Italian share rose from 0.9 per cent. to 1.34 per cent., the increase being largely in coloured piece-goods. The share of the United States advanced from 5.92 to 7.27 per cent. owing to increased shipments of mineral oils, tin plates and hardware. The share of Japan fell from 6.15 per cent. to 5.54 per cent. on account of reduced shipments of unbleached piece-goods and matches.

The quarter is not noteworthy on account of any marked trade movement. The slow but steady improvement in the import trade continues, and considerable purchases of piece-goods for forward delivery have been placed, a steadily rising exchange giving importers more confidence in the future. The new protective steel tariff came into force on June 13. A considerable increase in the imports of the types of iron and steel affected by the tariff resulted from Continental efforts to anticipate the new duties.

The total imports of cotton yarns rose from 223 lakhs to 250 lakhs. The British share advanced from 150 lakhs to 151 lakhs in value, but the weight was reduced from 7 million lbs. to 6.6 million lbs. Japanese shipments rose from 65 to 82 lakhs, and Swiss imports from 6 to 7 lakhs.

The total yardage of piecegoods (unbleached) imported fell from 208 to 201 million yards, but the total value rose from 632 to 684 lakhs. Imports from Lancashire increased from 526 to 602 lakhs, but there was a noticeable reduction in the imports from Japan from 102 to 76 lakhs. There has been a satisfactory increase in the total trade in piecegoods (bleached) from 109 million yards, valued at 401 lakhs, to 145 million yards, valued at 538 lakhs. In this increase the United Kingdom has taken its full share, British shipments having risen from 107 million yards, valued at 385 lakhs, to 142 million yards, valued at 513 lakhs. Imports from Holland were reduced by nearly 50 per cent., but those from Switzerland rose from 6,500 yards, valued at 6 lakhs, to 1,898,000 yards, valued at 16½ lakhs.

The total imports of piecegoods (coloured, printed, or dyed) advanced from 79 million yards, valued at 390 lakhs, to 87 million yards, valued at

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450 lakhs. The British share rose from 71 million yards, valued at 348 lakhs, to 77 million yards, valued at 397 lakhs. Imports from Holland were reduced from 11½ lakhs to 1½ lakhs, but there has been a noteworthy increase in the case of Italy from 435,000 yards, valued at 3¾ lakhs, to 1,432,000 yards, valued at 10¾ lakhs. Imports from Switzerland doubled in value, and now amount to 8½ lakhs.

The steady reduction in the imports of machinery and millwork which has taken place during the past three years continues. The value of the total imports during the quarter fell from 608 lakhs to 373 lakhs. British shipments were reduced from 531 to 308 lakhs, those of America from 56 to 47 lakhs, and of Germany from 10 to 7 lakhs. Whereas the shares of all the principal competitors are reduced, that of the United Kingdom has suffered most. The British share of the total trade during the quarter under review was 82 per cent., as compared with 87 per cent. in the corresponding period of last year.

The total imports of railway plant and rolling-stock fell from 372 to 248 lakhs. The British share was reduced from 338 to 240 lakhs, and that of the U.S.A. from 15 lakhs to a negligible quantity. Imports from Belgium fell from 4½ to 2 lakhs.

The total imports of hardware rose from 123 lakhs to 135 lakhs. This was mainly accounted for by an increase in the American share from 18 to 27 lakhs, and in that of Germany from 24 to 31 lakhs. British shipments fell from 61 to 53½ lakhs, and those from Japan from 8 to 5 lakhs. American competition is very largely in metal lamps and tools, while Germany is making steady inroads into the bazaar trade in cheap hardware of all kinds.

The total imports of motor-cars during the quarter rose from 1,631, valued at 40 lakhs, to 2,299, valued at 54 lakhs. This increase has been contributed to by most of the supplying countries. The number of British cars imported rose from 106, valued at 6 lakhs, to 247, valued at 10 lakhs. The Canadian imports advanced from 650, valued at 11 lakhs, to 955, valued at 17 lakhs. Those from the U.S.A. increased from 635, valued at 16 lakhs, to 974, valued at 23 lakhs. There were reductions in the imports from Belgium, France, and Italy. The number of motor-buses, vans, and lorries increased from 265, valued at 7½ lakhs, to 451, valued at 9¾ lakhs. Of this total the United Kingdom supplied only 35, valued at a little over 2 lakhs. The United States shipped 160, valued at 3½ lakhs, and other countries accounted for 256, valued at nearly 4 lakhs.

The total imports of motor-cycles rose from 225, valued at 1½ lakhs, to 370, valued at 2¾ lakhs. The United Kingdom maintained its position, and supplied 272, of a value of 2 lakhs. The United States of America shipped 79, valued at Rs. 62,000, while all other countries accounted for only 19.

During the past few years there has been a steady reduction in the imports of coal from abroad, and during the quarter under review the total trade shrank from 200,000 tons, valued at 58 lakhs, to 95,000 tons, valued at 27 lakhs. The British share increased from 21,000 tons, valued at 8 lakhs, to 35,000 tons, valued at 12 lakhs. Imports from South Africa fell from 86,000 to 22,000 tons, and the values from 21 to 6 lakhs. Shipments from Portuguese East Africa were reduced from 50,000 to 35,000 tons, and the values from 13 to 9 lakhs. Imports from Australia fell from 41,000 to 360 tons, and the values from 15 lakhs to a trifling amount. Owing to the efforts which are being made by the Bengal collieries to regain their position in the Bombay market, Indian coal is at the moment largely displacing overseas coal in that market, but the future will depend upon whether the Bengal colliery proprietors are able to maintain the quality.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-97$\frac{5}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	244-249
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	352-354
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	23.85-23.91
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5$\frac{9}{32}$-1.5$\frac{11}{32}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	89⅛-89¾
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	905-930
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	344-348,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5$\frac{9}{32}$-1.5$\frac{11}{32}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	835-845
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.49
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	82.75-83.30
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	149-150⅜
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	101$\frac{6}{16}$
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	615-625
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	318-323,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	—	23.30-23.50

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Motor Boats.—The Coastguards and Fisheries Service, Governorate Buildings, Alexandria, invites tenders for the construction of two coastal motor boats September 15.

Telephones.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 500 wall telephones. October 1.

Turkey.

Wire.—The Direction Générale, des Postes et Telegraphes, Stamboul, invites tenders for the supply of 25 tons of galvanised wire. (D.O.T.)

Bell Tents.—A department of the Turkish Government proposes to purchase 1,000 bell tents. (D.O.T.)

Czecho-Slovakia.

Locomotives, etc.—A new scheme is being undertaken by the Czecho-Slovak Government for the electrification of the State Railways, and tenders are invited by the Czecho-Slovak Ministry of Railways for locomotives and materials in connection with the project. October 21. (D.O.T.)

India.

Wagons.—The South Indian Railway Co. invite tenders for the supply of 109 wagons. October 10.

Dredgers.—The India Store Department invite tenders for the supply of two self-propelling suction dredgers, with radial heads and pumps having 20 in. suction and delivery, also floating discharge pipes, terminal pontoons, anchor lifting pontoons, and floating high-pressure hydraulic pumping plants.

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1st Class fare Lst. 2-19-2½ (L.E. 2.885 m/ms)

LUXOR to ASSUAN or vice versa in 6½ hours.
1st Class fare Lst. 1-5-5½ (L.E. 1.240 m/ms)

Through Service with Palestine Railways, via Kantara—combined first-class fare. Cairo to Jerusalem L.E 4.275 m/ms (Lst. 4-7-8) in 14¾ hours.

Enquiry Office, CAIRO STATION, Tel. No. 6777

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Decline in Futures.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended August 21 state :—

The market during the past week has been fairly steady. The net changes since our last report are: Sakellaridis, 0.23 dollar down for November, 0.40 dollar down for January; Ashmouni, 3.25 dollars down for August, 1.32 dollars down for October, 1.20 dollars down for December, 1.02 dollars down for February. Prices of Ashmouni have declined in sympathy with Americans, and show a loss on the week of about 130 points. Sakel, on the other hand, has again been firm, and only marks a loss of about 25 points. The strength of Sakel has been the outstanding feature, and the difference between November Sakel and October Ashmouni is now nearly 1,200 points. There is no explanation of the firmness of Sakel other than that practically the whole of the speculative element of this market is long of that variety, and contracts are accordingly scarce; this long position has been created on the opinion that the prospective supply of Sakel will not suffice for the world's requirements. The volume of business has been considerable, and has included fairly large purchases by commercial houses—a reflection of the rather better demand from spinners. The week's receipts amount to 10,039 krs., against exports 31,065 krs.; the stock stands at 280,329 krs. Spot.—Total sales during the week amount to about 3,400 bales, of which we estimate 2,100 bales Sakel and 1,300 bales Uppers.

Sakellaridis.—The demand continues to be maintained for all grades from fully fair to fully good fair/good. It is only the lack of cotton which has restricted business, and the price of spot, as compared with contracts, has consequently stiffened for these grades. Cotton below fully fair is still to be found in the market, and buyers of these grades can still fill their requirements comparatively cheaply.

Uppers.—We have had about 1,500 bales new crop arrivals during the week, and the premiums paid for this cotton have dropped to about one-third of those paid last week. Apart from the new crop cotton, practically all of which changed hands immediately on arrival, very little business has been done. Spot prices as compared with contracts are very much easier for all grades.

Crop 1924.—There is very little new to report on the crop; it is progressing normally. The attack of the pink bollworm in the Delta varies between 20 and 30 per cent. in the Central districts, and 10 to 20 per cent. in the Northern districts. It is somewhat disquieting to find that Middle Egypt has suffered this year rather more than usual from the ravages of the pink worm, and even the province of Assiout reports more than normal damage.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Sudan Sales Exceed Egyptian.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 27 :—

Egyptian Spot.—The American Bureau report issued last Saturday served to confirm the "bearish" views which were so prevalent when we wrote last week, and a further substantial drop in prices followed as a matter of course. Since then, an official acreage estimate has been issued from Egypt giving this season's figures as 1, 787,643, of which about half is said to be under Sakel. The general opinion appears to be that the total figure is underestimated, but the percentage of Sakel appears to be rather more than was expected. This latter fact, although affecting new crop months for future delivery, particularly in Alexandria, has had little effect on the spot value of the commodity here where the difference between Sakel and uppers has again appreciably widened owing to the weakening in basis of the latter. The small remaining stock of good Sakellaridis continues in good demand, and there is no sign of any break in the basis for this quality, which obtains from 300 to 350 on contracts.

The fully good fair cotton is practically non-existent, and it is satisfactory to find the inquiry concentrating rather more on the "off" cotton, which has been for so long a "drug in the market." The market for this cotton (fair to good fair) is extremely irregular, both buyers and sellers frequently showing themselves uncertain as to what they ought to pay, or accept, as the case may be. Generally speaking, it is pressed for sale. Uppers have been quieter on the spot—largely, we imagine, owing to the poor selection available, but an increasing business has been done in early new crops. Brown and white cotton has been neglected. In Sudan we again have to record a large business, the total sales exceeding those of Egypts proper by some 700 or 800 bales—a very rare occurrence. This week it has been noticeable that white Sudan has shared more of the inquiry than has latterly been the case, and business in this "outsider" has taken place at from 150 to 250 points on October American. Tokar Sakel One has changed hands in the neighbourhood of 26.00d., and the best Sudan Sakellaridis (which has been responsible for the bulk of the business) at from 25.00d. to 26.00d. C.i.f. business has been more active. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 22nd instant were returned as 5,743 bales. Estimated sales, 1,500 Egypts and 2,150 bales Sudan. Quotations of brown and upper are reduced 125 points, whilst those of Sakellaridis are only 30 points lower on the week. Fully good fair Sakellaridis to-day 25.25d.

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THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - - £390,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia:—
Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdah
Chief Office, TEHERAN.
Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah
Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan)
Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

LONDON, GREECE, EGYPT.

The only British Bank or Financial House in Greece originally established in London and the Ionian Islands in 1839, subsequently incorporated by Royal Charter in 1844, and registered under the Companies Acts in 1883. The Bank now has branches and correspondents throughout Old Greece, the Ionian Islands, Macedonia and the Islands recently rejoined to Greece; and is therefore able to offer special facilities to all British and Allied firms having business with that country.

In Egypt the Bank's principal office is at Alexandria; but it also has agencies throughout the cotton-growing districts, and specialises in all operations connected with the moving of the cotton crop.

In Turkey the Bank has a branch at Constantinople.

For information as to terms of business, etc., apply to the HEAD OFFICE:

BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE ST., LONDON, E.C.2.

Authorised Capital - - - - £600,000
Paid-up Capital - - - - £485,580
Reserve - - - - - - - - £170,000

THE NEAR EAST.

SUBSCRIPTION ORDER.

To the Manager, THE NEAR EAST, 167, Strand, London, W.C.2

Please forward THE NEAR EAST weekly for months.

Remittance enclosed.

Name .....

Address .....

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES Post Free: U.K., £1 7s. 6d. per annum; 14s. 6d. for 6 months. ABROAD, £1 10s. per annum; 15s. 6d. for 6 months.

To be obtained at all Bookstalls.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA

Incorporated and constituted in India under the Imperial Bank of India Act, 1920, for the purpose of taking over the undertakings and business of the Bank of Bengal, the Bank of Bombay and the Bank of Madras.

Local Head Offices:—

CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
S. A. H. SITWELL, Esq.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq., Offg.
London Manager:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.

Authorised Capital - - Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - - Rs. 5.62.50.000
Reserve - - - - - Rs. 4.57.50.000

BANKERS in INDIA to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA.

Branches in all Principal Towns in India.
London Branch: 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... ... £4,000,000 | Paid-up Capital £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... ... £4,000,000 | Reserve Fund £2,750,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES.

Aden, Aden, Steamer Point, Amritsar, Bombay | Calcuttta, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Cochin (S. India) | Colombo, Delhi, Kandy, Karachi | Lahore, Madras, Mandalay, Newera Eliya | Rangoon, Tuticorin, Zanzibar | Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru (Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)) | Entebbe, Jinia, Kampala (Uganda)

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga.

The Bank purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.

The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.

Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.

The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application.

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of the

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and between

Constantza, Constantinople, Jaffa, Alexandria.

For further particulars please apply to the Roumanian State Maritime Service, Bucharest, or any of their agencies.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA & BULGARA, SOFIA.

Capital 24 millions Leva
Reserves 1,705,000 Leva

Branches:
Varna and Bourgas.

Telegraphic Address:
"Bulcomit."

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COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE

(A Limited Liability Company Registered in Athens.)

CAPITAL PAID UP - Drs. 25,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 18,103,997

The assets include securities worth £800,000, which are valued at Drs. 20,000,000; that is, at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larrissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea.

Associated Bank in London:

The Commercial Bank of the Near East, Ltd., with branch at Constantinople.

AGENTS IN ALL PARTS OF GREECE, THE LEVANT AND ABROAD.

The Bank conducts every kind of Banking and Stock Exchange business, and extends special facilities to merchants and traders interested in business with Greece. It acts as Agent for many Foreign Banks. It is specially organised for Exchange transactions, the execution of mail and cable transfers throughout Greece, and for the collection of clean and documentary Drafts and Bills.

MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT.

The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

BANK of ATHENS

Head Office: ATHENS.
ESTABLISHED 1893

BRANCHES IN GREECE, TURKEY, EGYPT, CYPRUS, LONDON AND NEW YORK.

Telegraphic Address: BANCATHEN.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA & CHINA.

38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £3,900,000.

Court of Directors.

SIR MONTAGU CORNISH TURNER, *Chairman.*
COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
SIR ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
SIR WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, K.B.E.
THE RIGHT HON. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I.
THE RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN NEWELL JORDAN, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.,
WM. FOOT MITCHELL, Esq., M.P. [K.C.B.
LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, Esq.
JAMES MAXWELL GRANT PROPHIT, Esq.

Chief Manager—W. E. PRESTON.
Managers—J. S. BRUCE and G. MILLER.

Agencies and Branches.

ALOR STAR (Malay States)	DELHI	MADRAS	SEREMBAN
AMRITSAR	HAIPHONG	MANILA	SHANGHAI
BANGKOK	HAMBURG	MEDAN	SINGAPORE
BATAVIA	HANKOW	NEW YORK	SOURABAYA
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	PEKING	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PENANG	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
CANTON	IPOH	PUKET	TIENTSIN
CAWNPORE	KARACHI	RANGOON	TOKYO
CEBU	KLANG	SAIGON	YOKOHAMA
COLOMBO	KOBE	SEMARANG (Java)	ZAMBOANGA (PhilippineIslands)
	KUALA LUMPUR		

Bankers.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.
WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED.
NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts and transact general business connected with the East, **DEPOSITS OF MONEY** are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. **Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.**

The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £340,000

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors:

J. S. HASKELL, Esq. (*Chairman*).
SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
J. H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
MEYER SASSOON, Esq.
SIR PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for 1 year and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application, and Current Accounts are opened by the Bank in London and at its Branches.

F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED

Head Office: LONDON.

(Affiliated with Barclays Bank, Ltd.).

EGYPT.—Alexandria, Cairo, Port-Said, Suez, Tantah, Zagazig, Mansourah, Assiut, Beni-Suef, Minieh.
SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nazareth. MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta, Gibraltar.

Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000 Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000
Reserve - - - - - - - £720,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - - - - - - £3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - - £2,325,000

London Agency:

6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET, E.C.4.

Branches in all the Principal Towns in

EGYPT and the SUDAN.

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KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
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*Scindia, Sept. 30.	*Olympia, Nov. 28.
*Massilia, Oct. 14.	*Castalia, Dec. 16.
California, Oct. 25.	*Elysia Jan. 2.

* First class passengers only.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 tons,
carrying 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class passengers, sails from Liverpool Oct. 25; Marseilles Nov. 1.

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TUNIS, MALTA, ALEXANDRIA, SYRIAN COAST and CYPRUS.

New York to
ADRIATIC and GRECIAN PORTS, SMYRNA, CONSTANTINOPLE and ALEXANDRIA.

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PRINCE LINE, 56, Leadenhall St., London;
Gough & Crosthwaite, Ltd., 30, Princess St., Manchester;
Furness Withy & Co., Furness House, Whitehall Street, New York.

MENZALEH CANAL & NAVIGATION CO.,

PORT SAID.

General Shipping, Landing, Clearing and Forwarding Agents, Export and Import, Passengers and Freight. Nile Boats Chartering and Shipping Brokers.

Towage and Lighterage Port Said. Inland Water Transport throughout Egypt. The Company possesses 2,000 tons cargo lighterage.

Merchandise received into company's own craft ex steamer's slings, cleared and forwarded to any rail or water centre in Egypt (and Palestine).

Bi-Monthly cargo services Port Said-Ismailia-Cairo and *vice versa*, and as occasion requires to Suez and elsewhere.

Daily Stern-Wheeler Services on Lake Menzaleh for passengers and goods. Reduced rates on application for large consignments of merchandise.

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AGENTS IN LONDON:
TOWNSEND BROTHERS, 101, LEADENHALL STREET, E.C.3.
Through Bills of Lading, U.K. and Continent to any Railway Station in Egypt and Palestine.
Bankers: THE NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

For further information apply to the
Director and General Manager,
MENZALEH CANAL & NAVIGATION CO.,
P.O. Box 290, PORT SAID, EGYPT.
TELEPHONE—626

P. & O.

BRITISH INDIA and NEW ZEALAND SHIPPING COMPANIES'

MAIL, PASSENGER AND CARGO SERVICES.
P. & O. and B.I. tickets, interchangeable; also tickets of P. & O., Orient and New Zealand Shipping Companies. All sailings subject to change with or without notice.
MEDITERRANEAN, EGYPT, INDIA, PERSIAN GULF, BURMA, CEYLON, STRAITS, CHINA, JAPAN, MAURITIUS, EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA, AUSTRALASIA.
PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL SAILINGS.
(Under Contract with His Majesty's Government.)

Steamer.	Tons.	London.	M'rse'ls.	Destination.
*MOOLTAN	21,000	—	Sept. 5	Colombo & Australia
CHINA	8,000	Sept 5	Sept 12	Bombay & Karachi
NOVARA	7,000	Sept 6	—	Colombo & Calcutta
*MALWA	11,000	Sept. 12	Sept. 19	Straits, China, Japan
CALEDONIA	8,000	Sept. 19	Sept. 26	Bombay and Karachi
KARMALA	9.000	Sept. 26	—	Straits, China, Japan
*MALOJA	21,000	Sept. 26	Oct. 3	Colombo & Australia
NARK'NDA	16,000	Oct. 3	Oct. 10	Bombay & Karachi

* Taking passengers for Bombay, via Aden.

BRITISH INDIA SAILINGS.
(Under Contract with the Govts. of India and Queensland.)

Steamer.	Tons.	M'bro.	London.	Destination.
§TRENEGLOS	4,393	—	Sept. 4	East African Ports
¶MORVADA	8,193	—	Sept. 12	Bombay & Karachi
†MERKARA	8,235	—	Sept. 13	Madras & Calcutta
†MANDALA	8,246	Sept. 6	Sept. 26	Bombay and Karachi
†MODASA	8,986	Sept. 13	Sept 27	Madras and Calcutta
‡MADURA	8,975	—	Oct. 2	East African Ports
¶†MANELA	8,303	Sep . 20	Oct. 10	Bombay & Karachi
NEVASA	9,071	Sept. 27	Oct. 11	Madras & Calcutta

Ships marked § will not take passengers. ¶ Calls Malta.
† Leaving Antwerp one week after Middlesbrough date.
‡ From Middlesbrough, Sept. 20.

ADDRESS: For Passage, P. & O. HOUSE, 14, COCKSPUR STREET, LONDON, S.W.1; Freight or General Business: P. & O. or B.I. COMPANIES, 122, LEADENHALL STREET, E.C.3; B.I. Agents: GRAY, DAWES & CO., 122, LEADENHALL STREET, E.C.3.

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PASSENGER SERVICE FROM SOUTHAMPTON TO NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA via PANAMA CANAL.
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UNION S.S CO. OF NEW ZEALAND.

NEW ZEALAND and AUSTRALIA.
By any Atlantic Line to Canada or U.S.A., thence via VANCOUVER or SAN FRANCISCO
Apply: The General Passenger Agent, Union S.S. Company of New Zealand, P. & O. House (1st floor), 14, Cockspur Street, London, S.W.1, and for Vancouver Service, any office of Canadian Pacific Railway.

P. & O.
BRANCH SERVICE.

AUSTRALIA via THE CAPE.
"ONE CLASS ONLY."
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ELLERMAN'S

CITY--HALL--BUCKNALL

LINES.

FAST PASSENGER SERVICES.

LIVERPOOL to EGYPT, INDIA and CEYLON.

Steamer.	Tons.	Sailing.	Destination.
†City of London	8,956	Sept. 16	Bombay and Karachi
City of Exeter	9,447	Sept. 16	Colombo, Madras, Calcutta
*City of Harvard	7,071	Sept. 24	Bombay and Karachi
†City of Simla	9,468	Oct. 1	Colombo and Calcutta
†City of Nagpur	10,138	Oct. 4	Bombay and Karachi

* Calls Port Sudan. † Via Marseilles.

SOUTHAMPTON to FAR EAST PORTS.

City of Lahore	10,040	Sept. 20	S'pore, H'kong, S'hai, Kobe, and Y'hama
City of Karachi	8,040	Oct. 18	

LONDON to SOUTH AFRICA.

*City of Palermo	5 900	Sept. 5	Cape Town, Algoa Bay, East London, and Natal.
Trafford Hall	7,795	Oct. 3	

*Passengers embark East India Dock. 3 p.m.
All sailings subject to alteration or cancellation without notice.

Apply LONDON, 104-106, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.3.
LIVERPOOL: Tower Building, Water Street.
GLASGOW: 75, Bothwell Street.

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Fast, Luxurious Steamers to
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62/65, CHARING CROSS, S.W.1.,
103, LEADENHALL ST., E.C.3.
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SEP 26 1924

ZAGHLOUL PASHA DECIDES

THE NEAR EAST

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED "THE INDIAMAN."

A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

No. 696.—Vol. XXVI.
Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1924.

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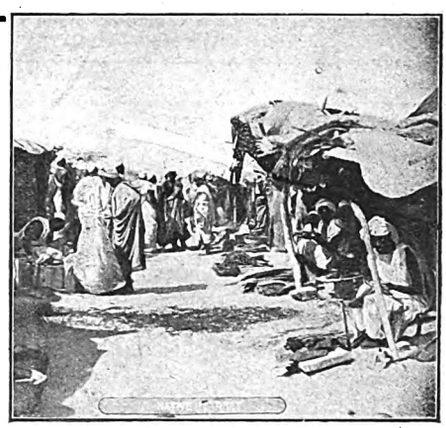
Express Steamer and Dining and Sleeping Car Services between Cairo and Khartoum.



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Telegrams: "Sudanology, Westrand, London." *Telephone: Regent 1071 (2 lines).*

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE: LONDON, E.C. 3.

Capital Subscribed - -	£71,864,780	Reserve Fund - - -	£10,000,000
Capital Paid up - - -	£14,372,956	Deposits, &c. - - -	£336,132,554

EASTERN DEPARTMENT:

77, LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, E.C. 3.

In consequence of the acquisition of the businesses of Messrs. COX & Co. and Messrs. HENRY S. KING & Co. (including Messrs. KING, KING & Co. and Messrs. KING, HAMILTON & Co.), LLOYDS BANK now has the following Offices in INDIA, BURMAH and EGYPT, and can offer special facilities to merchants and others for transactions with those countries. It issues Drafts, Mail and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, conducts Exchange operations, and transacts Banking and Agency business generally.

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EGYPT.—ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO (2 Offices), BENHA, BENI SUEF, FAYOUM, MEHALLA KEBIR, MINIEH, TANTA, WASTA.

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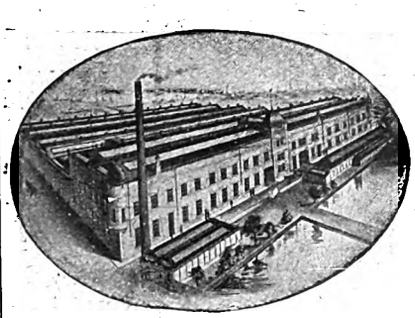

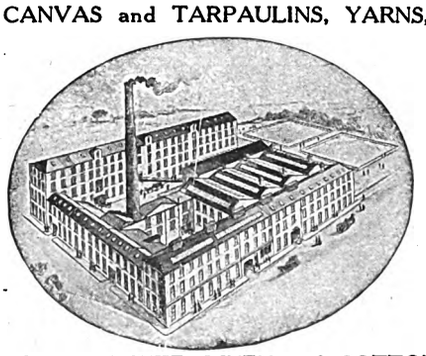

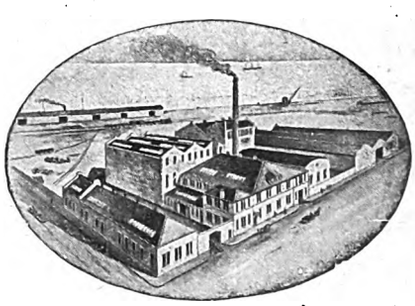

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City Office: 10/12, Copthall Avenue, E.C.2.

PELTON STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.

MILBURN HOUSE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Telegrams: "Spero, Newcastle-on-Tyne."

Steamship Owners, Chartering Agents, Insurance Brokers, Bunker Coals

London Office: 39, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

THE BRITISH INDIA CORPORATION LTD. CAWNPORE :: INDIA

The British India Corporation, Ltd., comprises an extensive group of industrial concerns including the Cawnpore Woollen Mills, The New Egerton Woollen Mills, Cawnpore Cotton Mills, Cooper, Allen and Co., The North-West Tannery, The Empire Engineering Co. and the Naini Tal M.T. Co. These firms, by pooling their resources and centralising control, form a Corporation which is able to supply Government Depts., Railways, Police and Armies, with every form of woollen and cotton clothing, boots, and all kinds of equipment, of a quality and price which would not be possible for an individual undertaking.

Reference to the particulars below will give an idea of the Corporation's activities. Correspondence is invited from wholesale merchants, and may be addressed to the Corporation or direct to the Branches. Inquiries and applications for samples will receive immediate attention.

LALIMLI PURE WOOL

Makers of the famous Lali-Imli Pure Wool Products. Manufactures include: Rugs, Blankets, Lohis (shawls), all classes of Knit goods, Flannels, Tweeds, Serges, Worsteds, Broadcloths and Great-coat Cloths. All requirements in Wool at lowest prices consistent with quality.

Cawnpore Woollen Mills Co., CAWNPORE.

Kakomi Cawnpore

These Mills produce the well-known Kakomi Cotton Goods.

The following articles are among their manufactures: Cotton Yarns, Twills, Table and Bed Linen of all kinds, Tents, Durries, etc.

Cawnpore Cotton Mills Co., CAWNPORE.

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This Company is one of the world's largest manufacturers of Army Boots, supplying the armies not only of India, but the world. Makers of all types of Boots, and every kind of Saddlery and Leather Equipment.

Everything in Leather.

COOPER, ALLEN & CO., CAWNPORE.

Dhariwal

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The New Egerton Woollen Mills Co., DHARIWAL.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

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Barkby Lane, Leicester.
Makers of the RUNWELL SEMI-ROTARY PUMP.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 696—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Invitation to Zaghloul Pasha.

As soon as the statement attributed to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald by a Press correspondent was repudiated—both its tenour and the source challenged credence at once—opinion in Egypt was in favour of the idea that Zaghloul Pasha should meet the British Prime Minister in order to discuss the subject of negotiations between the two Governments in regard to the "reserved questions." Whether this meeting should be held or not, it may be pointed out, has always been a matter for Zaghloul Pasha himself to decide. An invitation to come to London was sent to him; he was told that it would remain open. In these circumstances it was idle to pretend, as was pretended in Egypt last week, that Mr. MacDonald had bolted and barred the door to negotiations. On the contrary, the dilatory tactics adopted by Zaghloul Pasha in withholding a definite acceptance of a definite invitation, although there may have been for a short time a genuine misunderstanding on his part, proved conclusively that the Egyptian Prime Minister, for reasons of his own, was not anxious to discuss the reserved questions. As it is desirable, in the interests of both countries, that these negotiations should take place, and without further delay, it is satisfactory to know that Zaghloul Pasha, who seems to keep his ear very close to the ground, has allowed himself to be persuaded by the change of opinion in Egypt. He has agreed to come to London, and a meeting with Mr. MacDonald is expected to take place within a fortnight.

The Cart Before the Horse.

Every now and then the question of the Bulgarian claim for an outlet on the Ægean Sea comes up for discussion; it holds the stage for a period, and is then bowed off. The justice of the claim is unchallengeable, as it rests on a definite undertaking given by the Allied Powers in the Treaty of Neuilly. There are, however, difficulties in the way; for attempts have been made to fulfil the Allies' undertaking, but they have not been acceptable to Bulgaria. Each time that the question is raised Bulgaria's neighbours seize the opportunity to point to Bulgarian restlessness as a Balkan danger, and endeavour to keep alive the prejudice against that country created by the War. The Bulgarians, on the other hand, continue to declare—and with some show of reason—that they are most anxious to live at peace with the world, and have no wish to take or claim what is not theirs by right. In the circumstances, and taking into consideration the overwhelming character of the prejudice that is still so easily invoked against them, we are inclined to think that Bulgaria is setting to work in the wrong way. It is very natural that she should say in effect: Give us what belongs to us, and we will show you how peace-loving and loyal to Balkan interests we are. Unfortunately, and as we hold quite unjustly, this plea falls on deaf ears. Prudence, therefore, counsels a different policy. Instead of relying on the acquisition of an outlet on the Ægean Sea as a basis for cultivating good relations, it would be better to concentrate upon the establishment of good relations first and then to aim, as a natural corollary, on the fulfilment of the Treaty obligation in regard to the Ægean port.

The League and the Balkans.

At the instance of the Council of the League of Nations the Permanent Court of International Justice at The Hague has given its decision in the dispute between Albania and Yugoslavia in regard to the possession of the monastery of Saint Naum, on the southern shore of Lake Ochrida. The outbreak of the Great War interfered with the delimitation of the frontiers of Albania, which had devolved on the Great Powers after the Balkan War, and when Albania was admitted into the League of Nations in 1920, the chief Allied Powers became responsible for fixing her frontiers. A special point of dispute was the ownership of the monastery of Saint Naum, which the Serbians claimed had been accorded to them by a decision of 1913, but which came up for consideration before the Council of Ambassadors, and was in 1922 allocated to Albania. The Yugoslav Government challenged this decision, and the dispute was in due course submitted to The Hague Court. That body has now decided in Albania's favour. As there was no reason why the fate of the monastery should

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disturb Serbo-Albanian relations, the importance of the matter lies in its bearing on the value to Europe of the League of Nations. It is true that the final arbiter was the Permanent Court at The Hague, but it was the League that exercised in the first instance the necessary authority to compel the submission of the question to this tribunal, and it will be the existence of the League that would command respect for the verdict, if it were conceivable that there was any chance of its being challenged. We could wish that the League was at liberty to inquire into all outstanding disputes in the Balkans, without waiting for formal submission by the States concerned, in order that various questions, of no great moment in themselves, which tend to perpetuate bitterness and, therefore, unrest in the Peninsula might be settled once and for all time.

Greece and Turkey.

It will come as a disappointment to those who have been noting with satisfaction signs of an improvement in the relations between Turkey and Greece to learn that the Turkish Government apparently intends to make difficulties over the retention in Constantinople of the Greek population. The Lausanne Convention provided that Greeks who had established their domicile in Constantinople prior to October, 1918, were to be exempted from the compulsory exchange of populations. In view of the fact that there has been time for the Turkish authorities to appreciate the harm already done to Turkey by the elimination of the Greek population in Asia Minor, it would have been thought that in the country's interests the most generous interpretation possible would be placed on the word "established" in the case of Constantinople Greeks. The Angora Government, however, proposes to insist, or makes a pretence of insisting, upon actual registration as the requisite qualification for "established" residence. The opinion of the Mixed Commission for Exchange of Populations is said to be unanimously opposed to this interpretation, and it is only the statement of responsible Turkish officials, who talk of proceeding with the expulsion of Greeks from Constantinople, whatever decision the Commission reaches, that causes uneasiness.

The Turkish Point of View.

Theoretically, there was something to be said two years ago for the Turkish point of view. There was the old enmity between Greek and Turk; the Greek population in Turkey had undoubtedly stimulated Greek designs on Turkish territory. To the Turkish mentality, therefore, it seemed that the one way out of all the country's difficulties would be to get rid of the Greek population. No Turk was capable of appreciating the economic complications that must inevitably follow. If anyone had been able to do so, it is doubtful whether he would have agreed that the advantages to be derived from the step were outweighed by the disadvantages. There has, however, been time to realise that, objectionable as the presence of so many Greeks in their midst may have seemed to the Turks, they were a necessary factor in the material development of the State. That at this date the Turkish Government should deliberately propose to banish as many Greeks as possible from Constantinople can mean only that they are still in the unenlightened state in which they approached the Lausanne Conference, and remain wedded to the policy of indifference to Turkey's progress provided that it is vigorously kept a Turkish preserve. The fullest sympathy will be felt in many quarters with the wish to eliminate foreign intrigue, which has undoubtedly been Turkey's bane in the past, but it is disappointing to find that Turkish statesmanship does not rise above the crudest, and, in the long run, quite ineffective, methods of reaching the goal in view.

Georgia and the Bolshevists.

Another effort has been made in Georgia to overthrow Soviet tyranny in that country, but at present there would not seem to be any likelihood of its proving more successful than the last. An outbreak a year ago led to a sanguinary repression, and the Soviet Government claims to have been equally successful in the present instance. These risings are reminders of what Bolshevism is in practice in contradistinction to the mealy-mouthed assurances advanced by its representatives at the conference table. The toad beneath the harrow knows the way the furrow goes. The more the Soviet organisation is conscious of losing its grip the more ruthless will be its administration. After the failure of the last insurrection, which cost Georgia the lives of many whom she could ill spare, it would have been thought that those who were keeping alight the torch of Georgian independence would be on their guard against another false move. Last time the attempt failed mainly owing to the existence of spies in the "counter-revolutionary" organisation. A similar betrayal may have been avoided this time; but if there is any truth in the statements of the Soviet Government as to the ease with which the movement has been suppressed, it would seem as if the insurrection had been premature or very badly organised.

Afghanistan.

It will come as a shock to public opinion in Europe to hear that an official execution in Afghanistan under the Ameer's orders can be carried out to-day by stoning, after the victim has undergone several months of torture. So much has been heard of the Ameer Amanullah's reforming zeal that no one will have associated the feverish attempts to introduce an atmosphere of Western progress in his dominions with the retention of primitive savagery in certain spheres of the administration. From the fact that Maulvi Niamtulla Khan, who has thus met his death, enjoyed at one time the favour of the Ameer, and that his offence was as much his adherence to a banned Moslem sect as his alleged complicity in political intrigue, it has to be inferred that this reversion to type represents a desperate attempt on the Ameer's part to direct the storm which his measures have raised among his subjects. Afghanistan is not the only country that will have found the transition stage from mediævalism to modern conditions full of pitfalls; but the Ameer, in his effort to lift his people out of the rut of hopeless conservatism, does seem to be unduly handicapped by being entirely unsupported by any substantial body of public opinion.

Trades Unionists and India.

The President's address to the Trades Union Congress appears to register a definite change in the

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attitude towards India of the organised skilled workers who form such an important section of the English nation. As everyone who knows them will recognise, they are, at heart, inspired by the ideal of fair play, with perhaps just a trifle more for the "little one," but, through no fault of their own, they are not always fully informed regarding the facts of life in distant countries. Many of them have consequently been inclined to accept Indian extremist politicians as representative of the people, and a whole world of misapprehension has grown up on both sides. Now we have Mr. Purcell calling attention from the president's chair to the danger of handing India over to the control of mere politicians, and leaving the workers at the mercy of the same set of exploiters who oppress them to-day. That, as he says, would be no change at all, and he insists, quite rightly, on the need for giving the people, rather than the politicians, fair play. Here we have, at any rate, a definite advance in the direction of reality, and we hope the politicians, on their side, will recognise that English skilled workers now want something more than words.

The Part and the Whole.

The weakness of Mr. Purcell's position lies, of course, in a very natural want of proportion. He is thinking only of the workers in organised industry, who in England make up nearly his whole world, but in India are such a small part of the whole that one almost needs a microscope to detect their presence. If India were endowed with a theoretically perfect representative body of a hundred members, the two, or possibly three, trades unionists would cut but a poor figure alongside the solid body of ninety odd countrymen, peasants and labourers taken together, and on any democratic theory could ask for very little consideration. What we look for now is a further widening of view in this country. It is a great step forward that ordinary men should have looked past the politicians in the front seats to the miners and factory workers behind them. It will be even better when they have managed to catch a glimpse of the much greater crowd huddled in the background, and only just beginning to feel that it may possibly count for something in the scheme of things. Trades unionists in this country are now taking much more interest in agriculture than formerly; it is quite possible that by and by they may realise the claims of the Indian peasant on their attention.

The Indian Railway Report.

The vexed question of Indian railway finance has entered on a new phase with the rejection by the legislative committee of the scheme urged so strongly by the Acworth Commission, and officially accepted by the central Government. The Committee's report is being characterised as farcical, futile, irrelevant, and so on; but it strikes us rather as a muddle-headed expression of a natural, and possibly even a sound, political instinct. In a plaintive letter to *The Times* Sir William Acworth urges, by way of illustrating the position, that it would pay this country splendidly to take the Post Office out of politics and run it on purely business lines, just as he proposed the Indian railways should be run. Probably he is quite right, but, then, why has it not been done? Would the present House, or any other for that matter, consent to abdicate its position to that extent? And if the Mother of Parliaments does not set the example, it is at any rate not unnatural that the youngest, or almost the youngest, daughter, still lacking in knowledge of the great world, should instinctively cling to the methods of housekeeping traditional in the family, rather than imitate the innovations of some of the other junior branches.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Trades Union Congress.

The Trades Union Congress, which is being held at Hull, has been without interest, although not without incident. These congresses have gained some reputation for creating "scenes," and it has obviously been the intention of this one to avoid such reproachful happenings, and to show the wide world what sensible, one-minded fellows trade unionists in general are.

But, so far, nothing has been of equal importance, historically speaking, to the spirit of sectionalism that has been displayed. The bigger unions show greater and greater inclination to tyrannise, and the smaller unions increasing resentment of that tyranny. To hear a stevedore upon an N.U.R. man is delightful, though naturally the newspapers get only an abridged version.

One decision has been taken, of certain weight and consequence. The Congress has entrusted to the General Council, of thirty-two men, the power to declare strikes. This may be received in two ways:—either as the granting to a handful of men a decision that may be disliked by millions, or as the securing of a sensible and considered decision before extreme measures are resorted to. There appears to be no reason why it should not cut both ways. The fact remains that mere alterations or even improvements in organisation do not fundamentally touch the crudities of our present industrial system.

Communist and Trade Unionist.

One entertaining and inevitable feature of the Congress has been the disparity between the trade unionist's theory and his practice. On the one hand he is ready enough to "give fraternal welcome" to those arch-foes of moderate trade unionism, the Soviet representatives, and on the other he votes down all resolutions favouring closer relationship with Communist bodies in Russia, and even has decided that Communists in future cannot be adopted as Labour candidates.

This is very refreshing on the part of the hypocritical British working man. He too often is classed as a Bolshevist himself: the truth is that

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he is miles and miles away from being such. When such a man as Mr. C. T. Cramp, the railwaymen's leader, who has suffered much abuse at the mouth of our bourgeoisie as being a rebel and an upstart, states that they in Britain could not accept dictation from the rulers of a people "possessing the mentality of a slave," we may get some idea of the real attitude of the British working man towards the Soviets. The shame of internationalism has not really touched the worker yet: he may prate of "solidarity" and the rest of it, but he is far too sensible to be dragged into other people's troubles. Truly, we wrong our strikers much when we call them Bolshevists.

The Fate of the Middleman.

"Oh, for those times again when the middleman was not!" is the commonest of modern plaints. As I hinted in writing of the Covent Garden strike, the elimination—the partial elimination, at any rate—of the middleman is a distinct possibility. And now, in the milk trade, comes the further pleasant prospect of the disappearing middleman. The farmers and the distributive trades are in disagreement upon the proportion which should fall to each of a reduction in milk prices during the winter. The distributors say it should fall wholly on the farmers, which sturdy fellows, rather than accept this, are prepared themselves to distribute to the public. The farmers, moreover, favour a reduction in the price of milk (they suggest 4d. a quart), so that one can only hope for the best from whatever machinery they may be able to improvise.

Certainly there is public irritation with the middleman, and when he interposes rather than intermediates, the public should be strong enough to shift him.

The Russian Treaty.

During the Parliamentary recess the Opposition Press is going great guns against the Treaty with Soviet Russia, and this, indeed, is said to be much the most likely subject of a Government defeat. It is thought that both in the Irish business and in the Continental negotiations the Premier will have the support of the House, but on the Russian Treaty the Liberals officially have already revolted, and although certain of them are in favour of the Treaty, it is anticipated that those whose distrust of this Anglo-Soviet pact is too deep to be dispersed by speeches in Parliament will be in the majority.

It is said—one cannot of course vouch for it—that even in the Cabinet itself dissension over what everybody calls the Russian "fake" exists. Whether that is so or not, it is obvious that its passage through the House will be uncommonly hard. In which case it is probable that the matter will be left to the free vote of the House—there can be no question of "principle" when a defeat is probable.

The R.A.F.

It is not wholly a "stunt" which the newspapers have recently been making over the number of R.A.F. fatalities, and the Government has been wise in hastening to answer the attacks. In that odd kind of way so dear to the departmental mind, the Air Ministry supposes that it has made its case good (instead of which it has merely made out a good case) by remarking that for the number of hours flown, accidents, so far from being on the increase, are diminishing.

This hardly meets the point of the Ministry's critics—that the accidents so plentifully reported are largely due to the employment of machines of old type. The safety of these aeroplanes of old design is variously believed in by flying officers, and the view still prevails that it is a spirit of false economy which constantly endangers the lives of the men of the R.A.F. Something more than this statement of the Air Ministry will have to be done before the public is satisfied that all is as well as it may be.

Barnet Fair.

Every year we hear that the big fairs of England are doomed to extinction, but they turn up as regularly as ever. There is no doubt, however, that they are diminishing, although one would be sorry to see so fine a tradition from old times die out completely. At Barnet last week, for example, the fair, which was, until quite recent years, the largest in England, was comparatively a poor show. It is still reputed to be the biggest cattle fair in the country, but there were only a few hundreds of horses, and a handful of oxen—no pigs, sheep, or goats, such as there used to be.

The Pleasure Fair, the sort of amusement to which Wembley has given some sort of impetus, was also on a smaller scale than usual, and it was manifest that the nature of the showmen, who once with their journeys from place to place made England bright, is steadily changing.

Smallpox.

The smallpox scare, to which these islands are now accustomed, has broken out again, but this time in a new form. It appears that during the last week of August the Minister of Health, Mr. Wheatley, acting upon a report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, which called attention to the grave risks which the nation was running owing to neglect of vaccination, issued an order which made rather difficult exemption from vaccination. By the end of the month, however, this versatile Celt had, it seems, rescinded this order, and, in fine, prescribed what was in essence a *volte face*.

No one knows the reason for this somersault. There are those, of course, who will think responsible the same people as those who persuaded the Government of the wisdom of the Russian Agreement; but it may just as well have been Mr. G. B. Shaw. In any case, there are in the Labour Party so many kinds of different "consciences" that Mr. Wheatley may be excused for not knowing what he was offending.

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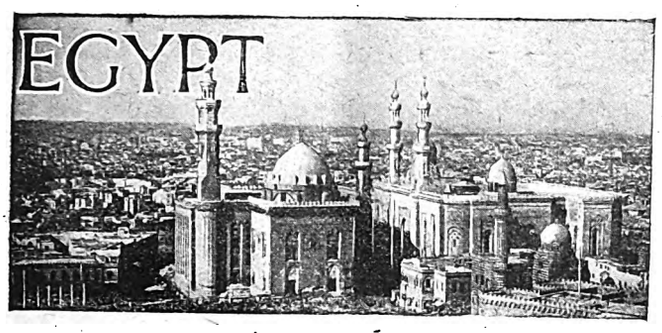

Cairo, August 31.

The Invitation to Zaghloul Pasha.

By the time this reaches you, and certainly by the time it is in print, the great question that is being asked everywhere here at the present moment—Will Mr. MacDonald meet Zaghloul Pasha before the former returns to London?—will have been answered. There is, indeed, far more interest taken to-day by the press and the public in what is going on in Paris than in events south of the Egyptian frontier. That does not mean, however, that the question of the Sudan has been set aside. On the contrary, the press still keeps the subject well to the fore, and, particularly the Opposition organs, is publishing very inflammatory matter. Still, in spite of all the efforts of the enemies of the Government to create trouble, the country and especially the towns are remarkably quiet. Indeed, the one thing that redounds to the credit of the Egyptian Government is that they have been able to prevent the disturbances which they feared—if indeed the fears they expressed of popular outbreaks were really justified—and have succeeded in stopping all public demonstrations and pacifying public feeling. This shows that they have control, at least, of the moving spirits, and that fact increases their responsibility for any untoward events that might at any time occur.

It is interesting to note that in prominent Egyptian circles the theory is now being advanced that Khedivist agents are responsible for the Sudan troubles, the outbreak of which, it is pointed out, coincided with the discovery of the Khedivist plot against the present régime in Egypt. It is true that the inquiry into the attempt on the life of Saad Zaghloul Pasha, which by the way is not yet closed, although it started over six weeks ago, is said to have shown that members of the Hasb El Watani were in close relations with Abbas Hilmi Pasha, and that it has been members of that party who have been partly responsible for the agitation in the Sudan. The part played in organising that agitation by persons who certainly have no Khedivist sympathies is, however, too well known for this theory to hold water. Indeed, the main incitement emanated from quarters which are interested in maintaining the present régime in Egypt and extending its jurisdiction rather than in causing its disruption—which is the object of the Khedivist machinations. The fact that this theory is being advanced at the present juncture may be taken as an indication that in the circles in question it is being realised that the present events do not redound to the credit of Egypt nor improve her position abroad, and that an excuse is being sought to shift responsibility for what has occurred.

The Abyssinian Church.

The dispute between the Abyssinians and the Coptic Patriarch with regard to the Deir el Sultan at Jerusalem was successfully settled during the visit of Ras Taffari to Cairo this week. But only, so to speak, at the eleventh hour. The terms are that at least half of the land fit for building within the perimeter of the Deir shall be made over to the Abyssinians; that they shall be given use of one of the two chapels—the one known as the Chapel of the Four Sacred Animals—that the passage leading to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which has been shut owing to the dispute, shall be made free for both communities on feasts and holy occasions, and, finally, that if at any time the Abyssinian Church should secede from the Coptic Patriarch the whole of the land ceded under this agreement, together with all buildings that may since have been erected thereon, shall revert to the Coptic Patriarch. Ras Taffari on his side has promised to make over to the latter a fine property in Addis Abeba, the revenue from which is to be devoted to the Coptic poor in Egypt and to the encouragement of the pilgrimage to Jerusalem amongst the Coptic community. The agreement has yet to receive the sanction of the general assembly of the Coptic community; but it is not thought that there will be any difficulty in that respect.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, September 2.

The League of Nations Assembly.

Bulgaria is being represented at the League Assembly by M. Kalfoff, Foreign Minister, and M. Madjaroff, a former Minister. The two questions which interest Bulgaria the most are those of military control and minorities. Concerning the first, Bulgaria would prefer the League to supersede the Allies in the task of watching over Bulgaria's disarmament. But the Little Entente having hinted that they desire to be represented on the League's Control Committee, Bulgaria may prefer that the present system be continued.

The vexed question of minorities is, of course, of first-rate interest to Bulgaria, who has many

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thousands of her nationals living in neighbouring Balkan States. Bulgaria is unlikely to make any definite protest regarding the treatment of these minorities, but will rather seek through private negotiations a means to improve the present situation. It is, however, reported that the Macedonians will put forward a detailed protest to the Council of the League of Nations regarding their treatment by Yugoslavia and Greece. It is not known how the Macedonians will introduce this protest, as it would place the Bulgarian Government in a delicate situation were it to emanate from them. It is possible that a South American State may be prevailed upon to use its good offices in making known the Macedonian grievances.

A Calmer Atmosphere.

Slowly but surely the political situation has improved. Whereas a few weeks ago all circles of public opinion were seriously alarmed over the idea of a Communist outbreak, there has now come into existence a feeling of confidence regarding autumn possibilities. This optimism is principally due to the very rigorous measures which the Government has taken with a view to preserving the peace. Throughout the country the army, the police, and the civilian authorities have been on the alert for Communist intrigues. The Government's task has been considerably facilitated by the valuable discoveries which resulted from the seizure of arms near Varna. Arrested persons are said to have made disclosures regarding the Communists' plans, whilst at least one large depôt of hidden arms previously smuggled into Bulgaria has been found.

A Governmental Congress.

On October 19 the first Congress of the Democratitchesky Sgovor will take place. Representing as it does all elements concerned in governing the country, the Sgovor has successfully survived fifteen months of office, and has thus rendered vain the criticisms so often levelled against it. Apart from the routine matters due to be discussed at the forthcoming Congress, it may well happen that decisions regarding the future composition of the Cabinet may be arrived at. The combination Liaptcheff-Bouroff is again being talked about, and it is just possible that in the late autumn M. Zankoff may decide to resign in favour of the two above-mentioned statesmen. If this were to occur, a radical Cabinet reconstruction would be the result, and the only Minister certain to remain would be General Volkoff, Minister for War.

Aftermath of Tarlis.

The Bulgarian Press continues to occupy itself with the regrettable massacre of seventeen Bulgarian peasants near the Greek village of Tarlis. Finished though this incident may be, it is to be feared that the consequences may prove somewhat serious. First, because feeling against Greeks living in Bulgaria has, despite all the efforts of the authorities, greatly increased, and, secondly, because certain Greek elements appear determined to exact a *quid pro quo* for the Tarlis judgment. At present the Greeks are pressing for a thorough inquiry by the Mixed Commission into alleged Bulgarian atrocities on Greek citizens. As Bulgaria has declared herself ready to undergo as many inquiries as the League sees fit to ordain, Greek public opinion should be satisfied on this point.

PROGRESS IN IRAQ.

We are glad to be able to announce that permission has been given to Saiyid Talib to return to Iraq. At one time Minister for the Interior, Saiyid Talib decided that the Emir Faisal must be kept out of the country at all costs, and made no attempt to disguise his desire, if not his intention, to prevent the Emir's selection as ruler of Iraq. It was a tribute to Saiyid Talib's personality that he was taken seriously, and for the sake of peace in Iraq he was arrested three years ago and deported from the country. After being detained in Ceylon, he came to Europe, and recently has been staying in England, where his sons are being educated. It has been evident all along that hostility between Saiyid Talib and the British authorities has been in the nature of a mistake; so long, however, as he adopted a certain attitude towards the Iraq Administration there could be no question of his being allowed to prejudice the future of the country. His return, it is to be inferred, will signify two things: first, that Saiyid Talib himself has recognised that the present régime has not only come to stay, but is also in the interests of Iraq; and second, that the fourth year of King Faisal's reign finds him in process of being more and more firmly established in popular favour. In other words, although it may be well to "touch wood" in saying so, Iraq is gradually making good.

THE AHMEDIA MOVEMENT.

The Khalifat Ul Masih, head of the Ahmedia sect of Moslems, was present last Sunday at a reception given by Maulvi Abdur Rahim Nayyar, the representative of the order in London, at the Mosque, Melrose Road, Southfields. After tea had been served in the gardens, the Khalifat Ul Masih gave a short address on the need for religious co-operation throughout the world.

The Khalifat Ul Masih received news last week that Maulvi Niamtulla Khan, an Ahmedia reformer, was stoned to death at Kabul, on August 31, after weeks of torture in prison. Two other members of the Ahmedia sect had previously been killed. The Khalifat Ul Masih has sent a telegram of protest to the League of Nations and to the Prime Ministers of Great Britain, France, and Italy, and the President of the United States.

The September issue of *The Blue Peter* divides its readers' interest over many spheres. Commander F. A. Worsley gives a full account of Sir Ernest Shackleton's famous journey in "Crossing South Georgia," and "An Odyssey of Empire," in its eighth instalment, deals with Malaya and Western Australia. No periodical associated with the sea is now considered complete without a reference to the Cutty Sark, and it says much for the self-effacement of the present owner and his wife, to whom the old clipper ship owes her present happy state, that Press articles appear without any mention of their name. In attractiveness of "make-up," and illustrations *The Blue Peter* leaves nothing to be desired.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

Lieutenant Dimitrios Yanaretos, one of the most able of the Greek Army aviators, was killed on Saturday while trick-flying.

The powder factories near Makrikeui, about twelve miles from Constantinople, were destroyed last week by explosion. There were several casualties.

The Regent, Prince Tafari, arrived at Addis Abeba on September 4 on his return from his European tour, and was received in state by the Government.

The Asiatic Society of Bengal has published (from 1, Park Street, Calcutta) a study of the Prakrit Dhatv-Adesas, written by Sir George Grierson.

Notes have been exchanged by the Swiss and Bulgarian Governments for the mutual extension of the "most favoured nation" clause of their tariff laws.

The U.S. cruiser "Trenton" arrived at Port Said on September 4 with the body of Major Imbrie, who was murdered in Teheran, on board, and sailed for America last Friday.

Admiral of the Fleet Earl Beatty, in his yacht "Sheelah," returned to Constantinople on September 4 from Roumania. He was entertained at luncheon last Saturday by the Constantinople Chamber of Commerce.

Lieutenant L. A. Lawrence, West Yorkshire Regiment, attached to the Yemen Infantry as Assistant Political Agent, was recently murdered at Perim Island, Aden Protectorate, and his property and rifles stolen.

The *Daily Telegraph* Calcutta correspondent reports that an Indian forest officer in Burma has killed a man-eating tiger which, in the past few weeks, had killed twenty-four men and women and had mauled many more.

The first conference to be held with the object of drawing closer the peoples of the Balkans by means of the churches has been fixed for the end of September, at Sinaia. Representatives of Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, and Turkey are expected to take part in it.

The Limassol Press Bureau reports that more than twenty square miles of forests in various parts of the Island of Cyprus have been destroyed by fires which, it is believed, were the work of incendiaries. The Government has appointed a Committee to inquire into the matter.

The motor-car of Prince Buhran Ed Din, great-nephew of the former Sultan of Turkey, came into collision at San Remo with a taxicab on September 3. The Prince and the Marquis de Ribera, who was sitting beside him, were not hurt, but his three other guests were seriously injured.

An agreement has been concluded in Athens by which the National Bank will advance the Government 100,000,000 drachmae (about £400,000 at present rates), to be employed for the benefit of refugees in Greece. The claims of these refugees on real estate in Turkey will be set off against the loan.

An Athens message states that fifty-five Greeks were recently arrested by the Albanian authorities at Chimara, that several Greek women who were returning from the vineyards were attacked by the Albanian soldiers, one woman being killed and three wounded, and that twenty-five Greeks have been arrested in the village of Drymades.

Prince Tafari Makonnen has forwarded to the University of Cambridge Library a copy of each of the books which he has had printed in Ethiopia in his printing press, and has asked that they may be placed in the Library as a souvenir of his recent visit. A pair of elephant's tusks is also being sent to the University as a memento of Prince Tafari's visit.

THE NEAR EAST INDEX.

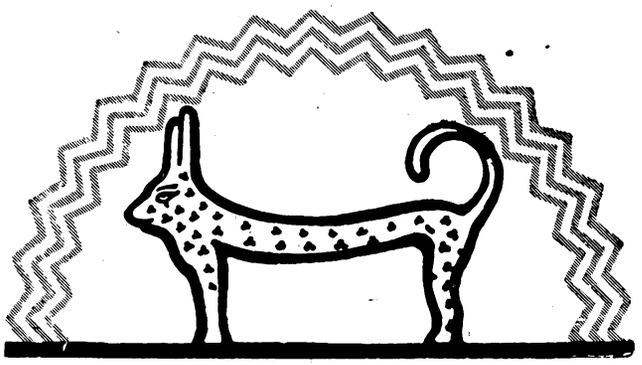
The Index to Volume XXV. of "The Near East" (January 3—June 26, 1924) is now ready, and copies will be sent to subscribers gratis on application to the Manager, "The Near East," 167, Strand, London, W.C.2.

"THE ROUND TABLE."

The reputation of *The Round Table* for dispassionate handling of the questions which it subjects to critical analysis will make the reader turn with special interest to an article headed "Egypt and the Sudan" in the September issue, to see what is probably the best case that can be made for the Egyptians. The writer suffers from no hesitation on the subject. After citing a case tried in 1910 before the Mixed Tribunal of Cairo, an independent international Court, quite free from any pro-British bias, in which it was laid down that the Sudan had become "a new State, distinct from and independent of Egypt and possessing administrative, legislative, and judicial powers," he characterises the demand that Great Britain should entirely withdraw from the Sudan and leave it in the hands of the Egyptians, as "certainly not lacking in audacity." On the other hand, it is beyond question that Egypt has rights and interests in the Sudan which Britain is bound to respect. The Sudan is heavily in debt to Egypt; in regard to Nile water Egypt has every claim to be generously treated. If the problem could be approached in a spirit of mutual goodwill and accommodation, there would be no difficulty in reconciling the different interests. The Anglo-Egyptian Convention ought to be firmly adhered to; the Sirdar of the Egyptian Army should in future be an Egyptian; the Governor-General of the Sudan, as before, British; an army of ten thousand men can be dispensed with, and its place taken by a much smaller force, rather in the nature of a constabulary, the Egyptian Government, if it desires, continuing to station a small detachment of the Egyptian Army in the Sudan; the Nile Commission should consist of an Egyptian, a Briton, and a third member appointed by the United States.

An article on India, entitled "The Economic and Social Aspirations of the Indian Nationalists," is written by an American, who points out that the Indian problem is at bottom economic, not political. Much as Great Britain has done for India, he finds that, if she is to justify her position, she has a great deal more to do. Other articles deal with Imperial Diplomacy, Labour and Capital, and the Irish Boundary Question.

A Sofia telegram states that on September 1 four Greek soldiers and an armed civilian who crossed into Bulgaria and tried to drive off a herd of cattle were fired on by Bulgarian soldiers, two of the Greek soldiers being killed.



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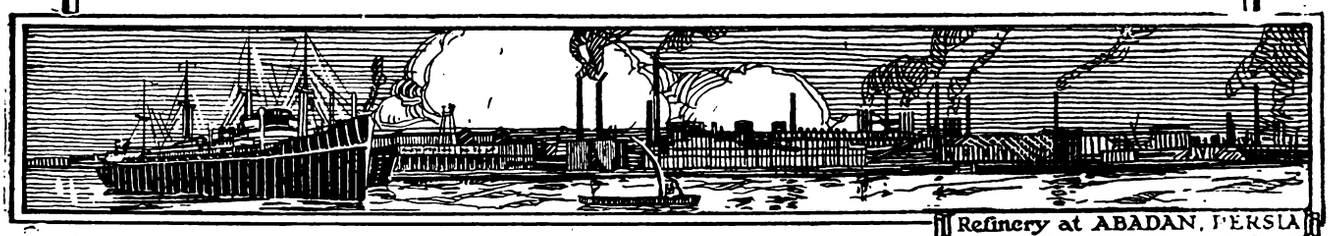

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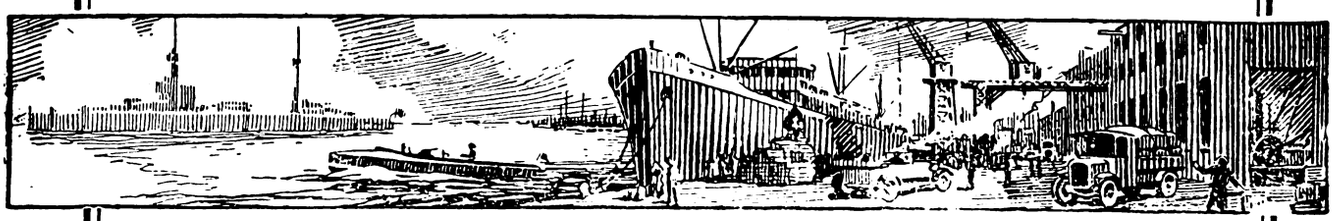

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Near East Bookshelf.

INDIAN PROBLEMS.

"INDIAN PROBLEMS IN RELIGION, EDUCATION, POLITICS." By Bishop Whitehead, D.D. (London: Constable and Co. 12s. net.)

Bishop Whitehead has known India for forty years, first in Calcutta as Principal of Bishop's College and Superior of the Oxford Mission; from 1899 till last year as Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Madras. In both his appointments he won the affectionate respect of all who knew him, and his wise counsel was much sought after both by his friends of all persuasions and by the Madras Government. A book by him on Indian problems would, therefore, be something from which one would naturally expect instruction, useful information, and sound conclusions.

Nor does this work disappoint us. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that the first few chapters, on Indian religions, are the poorest in the book. It is specially curious that a large-hearted scholar should be content to give so very inadequate a sketch of Hindu religious belief. It would almost seem as if his long residence in the Southern Presidency had blinded him to the fact that India is not only Madras, and that what is more or less true of that Province may be quite untrue for the North and Centre of India and Bombay. In fact, a tendency to identify Madras with India runs through the book, and somewhat diminishes its value. On the necessity for a true Christian Church of India in place of sectarian communities he writes with the fullest knowledge and carries conviction with him. The Indian Christian is with him in this important matter, and we may well hope that the unedifying disputes between the various bodies of Western Christians may not much longer be continued among their converts in India, who are becoming increasingly aware that Christianity is an Eastern religion which may well be their own without undesirable Western accretions. It will be difficult to put this through, but the task will not be too hard if many leaders feel as our author does. His account of the extraordinary success of Christian efforts among the "untouchable" classes in Madras is very striking. While not doubting that these conversions are in great part the result of conviction, we cannot help thinking that perhaps too little stress has been laid on the social advantages which such conversion brings in its train.

On the subject of education, Dr. Whitehead has much of great value to say. He is an out-and-out opponent of the educational policy inaugurated by Macaulay, and, to our mind, while calling justified attention to its defects, he is apt to ignore its good side. Still, its defects have, if possible, to be overcome, and the Bishop's ideas on this subject are of great value. As to educational Christian missions, he is most emphatically of the opinion that, save in exceptional cases, it is now the duty of the Christian bodies to concentrate on the teaching of Christians and on the very urgent problem of training for the teaching profession.

On some political subjects of present interest Dr. Whitehead gives us largely the outlook of a broad-minded man who, mixing with Indians and Englishmen and appreciating both, is, on the whole, inclined to the moderate Indian's side on such questions, specially with reference to the position of India in the Empire. On the whole, he puts both sides fairly, and his conclusions are reasoned conclusions worthy of attentive study.

It is curious that the economical and industrial side of India is hardly mentioned in the book.

C. S. W.

A GREAT RUSSIAN DRAMA.

"CZAR FEODOR IVANNOVITCH." A drama in verse. By Alexis K. Tolstoi. Translated into English verse by Alfred Hayes. Preface and Appendix by C. Nabokoff. (London: Kegan Paul. 5s. net.)

This is a translation of a well-known Russian drama by Alexis Tolstoi. It has all the elements of great tragedy. We feel the climax to be inevitable, and the clash of personality is represented with power. It is the tragedy of the weak, easily swayed, but saintly minded Czar Feodor, a man for whom the responsibilities of his position are overwhelming. He is anxious to live at peace with all the factions of his nobles, happy in his devotion to his wife Irina. He is torn between the determination of his brother-in-law, Boris Godounov, to make himself the real ruler of Russia and the eagerness of his chivalrous and impetuous kinsmen, the Shuiski Princes, to shake off Godounov's yoke. Godounov is the clear-sighted man of action, anxious to pursue the progressive policy in which he sees hope for Russia's future, whereas the Shuiskis are reactionaries. Godounov is triumphant, and the Shuiskis are crushed. Feodor is left still racked by doubt and uncertainty with the cry, "My God! my God! O why, O why didst Thou appoint me Czar?" We are glad to have the chance of reading this play in English, but we cannot agree with the praise which M. Nabokoff, in his interesting preface, gives to Mr. Hayes's translation. We are too often jerked from the interest and beauty of the play by banalities and ugly colloquialisms in the blank verse, the effect of which is sometimes almost comic. Those of us who do not know Russian could follow a performance of the drama in its original language with much more pleasure for having read this translation. But we feel that we should require a worthier translation before we would enjoy seeing it acted in English.

J. B. AINSLIE.

ADVENTURE.

"WONDERS OF THE HIMALAYA." By Sir Francis Younghusband, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E. (London: Murray. 10s. 6d. net.)

This is a really splendid adventure book. It tells of two journeys taken by Sir Francis Younghusband when he was, as he says, "not much more than a boy," across passes in the Himalaya, which he was the first white man to cross. It is a thrilling story of pluck, resource, and determination to win through. Sir Francis recaptures in his writing all the enthusiasm and hopefulness of youth. He gives his pictures of the marvels of the Himalaya—marvels which have not been revealed to many eyes—with a freshness and vividness that makes us catch our breath. This is a book which it is worth everyone's while to read. There are many wonderful descriptions, such as that of the author's first sight of the main range of the Himalaya, the great watershed between Southern and Central Asia, and that extraordinarily touching picture of the subaltern of twenty-five alone, except for his few Ghurkas, in the stronghold of a mountain robber chief upholding the greatness of the British Empire.

J. B. AINSLIE.

DEVELOPMENTS OF BUDDHISM.

"THE DESIGNATION OF HUMAN TYPES." Translated by Bimala Charan Law, M.A., B.L. (London: Oxford University Press. 10s. net.)

Buddhism is rather a system of philosophy than a religion. Its basic doctrine affirms that every human being is born with a heritage, or "Karma," of evil qualities, which he must lessen by subduing

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his earthly passions, in view of escape from a long series of re-births into this world of suffering. Five "hindrances" are encountered in the effort to throw off the burden of Karma, namely, greed, cruelty, sloth, anxiety and scepticism. By conquering these lions in the path he may join the glorious company of the elect, and even rise to the condition of Arahant—one in whom sin has been extinguished. Such is the thesis set forth in Baggala Pannapati, or "Notions Concerning Individuality," which in Professor Rhys Davids' opinion was the earliest expression of Buddhistic philosophy. The unknown author's outlook on life resembles that of our eighteenth-century metaphysicians. One notes the same microscopic analysis of moral and intellectual qualities, the same subject tending to become morbid self-absorption. It is easy to trace the influence exercised by Buddhism on the evolution of the world's organised religions. Karma probably suggested the theological conception of Original Sin, and the ascetic practices which Buddhism enjoined as a means of achieving salvation were a leading feature in mediæval Christianity. The Puritanism which still darkens so many fleeting lives finds a parallel in the Buddhistic prohibition of dancing, singing and any form of amusement. The postulant

is satisfied with robes just enough to protect his body, with alms just enough to feed his stomach, taking these with him wherever he goes; just as a bird wherever it flies, flies with just the load of its wings.

The Society of Friends owes much to the quietism preached by the Buddha, and its effect on the development of Eastern Christianity is seen in the present plight of Russia. Nor were the germs of advanced science lacking in the teachings of the Enlightened One. He had a dim perception of the theories set forth by Lamarck and Darwin, and inspired the pessimism of Schopenhauer. His doctrines afford scope to the deeply-rooted instinct which yearns for intellectual growth and is the mainspring of civilisation; but Social Service—destined, perhaps, to be the religion of the future—takes a secondary place in a scheme for securing deliverance from life's intolerable burden.

Mr. Bimala Charan Law has ably performed the ungrateful task of translating a treatise which excels those of our transcendental philosophers in elaboration and aridity.

AN IMAGINARY COLONY.

"THE DEVIL'S RIVER." By Leland Buxton. (London: George Allen and Unwin. 7s. 6d. net.)

At the beginning of the book Charles Beach is private secretary to Sir William Blossom, K.C.M.G., Governor of Mangolia, which is "one of the brightest jewels in the Imperial Crown." He is the perfect private secretary and is also an unfailing ally to Lady Blossom in her ambitious and distinctly shady schemes. At the end we leave him, having discovered that he is made for exploration and travel in wild country and "not for office-stools and drawing-room carpets." Incidentally, he has discovered that this passion is more important to him than his love for Zita Crawley, to whom he has been devoted ever since the fascinating Lady Miranda Pugh preferred an undemonstrative Liberal politician to himself. Beach discovers his liking for a wild and solitary life through several thrilling adventures in the territory north of Mangolia. These adventures take place because of the plots of a gang of unscrupulous financiers who keep trying to stir up the natives to commit atrocities on British travellers in order that Bulaland and the Devil's River Territory may be annexed to the Empire and exploited by them.

Beach also experiences some years of poverty in England, and takes part in an election campaign. The book has, it will be seen, plenty of incident, and also we meet a good many people. These people, with the exception of the financiers—who are too much the villains of melodrama—are very like some of the people one meets in real life. Mr. Buxton evidently has experience of life in various "bright jewels of the Imperial Crown," and has made use of it to produce a most convincing picture of Mangolia.

J. B. Ainslie.

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INDIAN REFORM.

Sir Ali Imam, K.C.S.I., has recently published a pamphlet entitled "The Next Step in Indian Reform," in which his plan to improve the present political situation in India is described. A copy of the pamphlet will be sent post free on application being made to Mr. Henry Edmonds, 12, Linden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Eastern Road: Travels in China, Japan, and Mongolia." By L. H. Dudley-Buxton. With 37 Illustrations from Photographs by the Author. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Tales of Turkey." By Major E. W. C. Sandes, D.S.O., M.C., R.E. (London: John Murray. 5s. net.)

"Pilau: being Lays of East and West." By A. W. Black. (London: Arthur H. Stockwell. 3s. net.)

"Neither Fish nor Flesh." By E. W. Savi. (London: Hurst and Blackett, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Napoleon." By Elie Faure. Translated by Jeffery E. Jeffery. (London: Constable and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

OBITUARY.

Prince Dehashina Moorthy Dorai Rajah of Pudukota, fourth natural brother of the Rajah of Pudukota, who is now in London, died, on Sepetmber 3, at a Brighton hotel. The body was cremated at Woking on September 8.

The death has occurred, after a brief illness, of Sardar Sir Nasrullah Khan, K.C.S.I., eldest son of the Begum of Bhopal, whom he assisted in the administration of her State. Sir Nasrullah, who accompanied his mother on her visit to England for the Coronation in 1911, was created K.C.S.I. in 1920.

The death occurred at Rangoon, on September 2, of Sir Abdul Karim Jamal, leader of the Mahomedan community, and one of the merchant princes of Rangoon. Sir Abdul Karim Jamal, who was knighted in 1920, was the proprietor of Jamal Bros. and Co., Limited, and founder and half-owner of the Indo-Burma Petroleum Company, Limited.

Vice-Admiral William Harvey Pigott died at his residence, Doddershall Park, Aylesbury, on September 1, aged 76. As Lieutenant of the "Monarch" he was present at the bombardment of Alexandria on July 11, 1882, and was promoted for his services. He held the Egyptian medal, the Alexandria clasp, the Khedive's bronze star, and the Order of the Osmanieh 4th Class.

THE PERSIA SOCIETY.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

September 11, 1924 (New Style).
August 29, 1924 (Old Style).
Saphar 11, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Ellul 12, 5684, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Herbert Samuel, who has been in England on leave, arrived in Jerusalem last week.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania returned to London from Bournemouth last week.

Queen Olga of Greece left London last Friday for Sandringham on a visit to Queen Alexandra.

The Yugoslav Minister left London on September 7 for Belgrade on leave.

Sir Malcolm Stevenson left London on September 6 in the P. and O. steamship Novara for Port Said.

Zekiaï Bey, the new Turkish Ambassador to the Court of St. James, left Constantinople on September 6 for London.

The Earl and Countess Winterton left England for France on September 3, and will not return until the end of the month.

The Bishop of Madras and Mrs. Waller were among the passengers in the China, which left London last Friday for Bombay.

Mahmoud Sabet Bey, First Secretary at the Egyptian Legation, and Mme. Sabet have returned to 24, Cadogan Square from the Continent.

Princess Marie of Greece and her husband, Admiral Ioannides, left London on September 5 by motor-car on a short visit to Harrogate.

Mrs. Waller, the wife of Major R. de Warrenne Waller, D.S.O., 58th Rifles, Indian Army, gave birth to a daughter on August 23 at Abbottabad, India.

King George and Queen Elizabeth of the Hellenes honoured Mr. and Mrs. Philip Martineau with their company at dinner on September 3 at the Ritz Hotel, London.

Mr. H. Charles Woods has left London for Chatel-Guyon. He expects to be absent about three weeks, and to proceed to the Near and Middle East early in the New Year.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Bald, C.M.G., 1/1 Madras Pioneers (K.G.O.), and Viola, widow of the late Peter Tarbet, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of Stevenage, Herts.

Sir Kay and Lady Muir entertained last week a large house party for the shooting at Blair Drummond. The guests included Sir Herbert Dering, British Minister to Bucharest, and Lady Dering, Sir Montague Barlow, Captain the Hon. and Mrs. Fitzalan-Howard, Lady Ian Hamilton, and Mr. Ivan Stancioff.

Among recent wills proved are that of Sir William Robert Brooke, K.C.I.E. (82), of Knightsbridge, S.W., formerly Director-General of Telegraphs in India, who left £4,753, and that of Sir Frank McCarthy, C.B.E., of Rangoon, President of the Burma Legislative Council, at one time manager and editor of the *Rangoon Gazette*, who left £32,810 (net personalty £21,607).

The christening of the infant son of Prince and Princess Paul of Serbia took place last Thursday afternoon at White Lodge, Richmond Park. Father Leluikhin, of the Greek Church, officiated, and the child received the name Alexander. The godparents were the Duke and Duchess of York (represented by Prince Paul of Greece), the King of Serbia (represented by the Serbian Minister), Queen Olga, King George of the Hellenes, the Infanta Beatrice of Spain, Prince Nicolas of Greece, Princess Elizabeth of Greece, and Prince Arsene of Serbia.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Mr. John C. Howard has been appointed a member of the Executive Council of Cyprus.

Mr. Hyacinth Louis Rabino, O.B.E., H.B.M. Consul in Cairo, has been appointed British Consul-General at Smyrna.

Shuja ud Dowlah has been appointed Afghan Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James.

M. Georges Todorovitch has been appointed Counsellor at the Jugoslav Legation in London in succession to M. C. Fotitch, now attached to his country's delegation at the League Assembly.

The appointment is announced from Athens of M. Exintaris as head of the Hellenic delegation on the Mixed Commission for the Exchange of Græco-Turkish Populations, *vice* M. Pappas, who has resigned.

Major James Hugh Hamilton Dodds, C.M.G., British Consul at Tripoli, Libya, has been appointed Consul for the Provinces of Corunna, Orense, Lugo, Pontevedra, Leon, Zamora, Salamanca, and Oviedo.

Mr. Justice Horace O. C. Beasley has been appointed a Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Madras, in succession to Mr. Justice Victor M. C. Trotter, who has been appointed Chief Justice of that Court.

Where to stay in the East

Write for particulars of attractive offer for advertising Hotels on this page.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1924.

ZAGHLOUL PASHA DECIDES.

After some genuine misunderstanding and very much more deliberate mischief-making, it has now been arranged that a meeting will take place between the British and Egyptian Prime Ministers. In March Mr. Ramsay MacDonald reminded Saad Pasha Zaghloul that Great Britain was at all times ready to negotiate with the Egyptian Government in regard to the four questions which had been reserved for future discussion at the time of the declaration of Egypt's independence, and shortly afterwards it was suggested that negotiations might take place in London towards the end of June or the beginning of July. This invitation was formally accepted by Zaghloul Pasha; but at a later date it was found that both Prime Ministers needed a rest, and that for other reasons as well the end of September would be a more convenient date for the negotiations. The alteration in the time of the London meeting was agreed to by Zaghloul Pasha, and when he left Egypt on July 25 it was expected that he would shortly let the British Government know the precise date of his arrival in England. On August 11 the disturbances in the Sudan occurred, and as the days passed without any communication from Zaghloul Pasha, it was supposed in London that his silence was in some way connected with the Sudan crisis. When, however, it was learned that Zaghloul Pasha was himself under the impression that the British Government proposed to fix the date for the negotiations, a further letter was at once sent to him to clear away the misunderstanding and to place the selection of a date in his hands. To this communication he did not at first see fit to make any definite reply. The only answer that was required was one stating the actual day on which the Egyptian Prime Minister proposed to arrive in London. In its place he sent circumlocutory assurances of his readiness to negotiate. From the fact that simultaneously he let it be known in Egypt that he intended to return to that country before the end of the month, it was to be inferred that he had abandoned the idea of entering at the present time upon discussions with the British Government on the reserved subjects. Better counsels, however, have now prevailed.

If the preliminary meeting should not lead to formal negotiations between the two Governments, or if the negotiations were to be a failure, Anglo-Egyptian relations would automatically revert to the position which they occupied at any period in the two years preceding the British Government's offer to enter upon negotiations in regard to the reserved subjects. This, we imagine, was in Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's mind when he spoke in Paris to a representative of an English daily newspaper, who proceeded to adapt his remarks to the necessary degree of sensationalism required by his newspaper—a step that Mr. MacDonald is stated to have characterised as "an abominable practice of so-called journalism." The words put into his mouth by the journal were that "there can be absolutely no question of the evacuation of Egypt by British troops or the removal of British forces from the Suez Canal region. I may safely say that we have provided fully against any eventualities." To anyone acquainted with the situation and able to approach the subject dispassionately, it is obvious that the first sentence, while literally correct, has no point as coming from the Prime Minister at this time. If an ignorant interviewer, with a hazy idea of the situation in regard to Egypt, chose to ask whether the British were about to evacuate the country, it is conceivable that Mr. MacDonald, disconcerted by the fatuous nature of the question, might exclaim that there could be no question of the evacuation of Egypt at this time, for the good reason that everyone is supposed to know that the only point at issue in this connection is the withdrawal of the British troops to the Canal zone, and that that point is one of the reserved questions which, as far as the Prime Minister then knew, had been indefinitely postponed. It is not difficult, however, to understand how the remarks attributed to Mr. MacDonald would be interpreted in Egypt. In the first place they would naturally be supposed to have some point, and because in themselves they are pointless, a strained meaning is attributed to them. The Egyptian Press and public—neither conspicuous for clear thinking these days—imagined that Mr. MacDonald was hatching a deep-laid scheme for attacking Egypt's independence by altering the *status quo*. Reflection, however, has now disabused them of this erroneous idea.

Although relations between Egypt and Great Britain might seemingly be back again where they were at the beginning of the year, it is clear that in one important particular they will have undergone a change. The belief which was apparently held in Egypt that, in the face of sufficient agitation, Great Britain could be induced to surrender any given position has been rather brusquely dissipated. Egyptians must now realise, it would be imagined, that glib talk about the independence of the Sudan, by which they imply its annexation to Egypt, and its immediate evacuation by the British, is not likely to effect much from the Egyptian point of view. The four reserved questions, however, remain, and three of them are certainly linked up with the rounding off of Egypt's independence. In the outcry over the Sudan the other three have been ignored, but none the less they impinge much more on the everyday management of Egypt's own affairs than anything which happens south of the 22nd parallel. The decision to negotiate, therefore, it is to be hoped, implies recognition of the fact that circumstances alter cases, even Egypt's case. The situation, there can be little doubt, is in the hands of Zaghloul Pasha. If he leads, Egypt will follow. If he lacks the energy or the courage to take up a definite line by preaching and imposing upon the people moderation, the consequent unrest can hardly fail to lead to his own undoing and to the grave prejudice of Egyptian interests. A *modus vivendi* in regard to the Sudan that will satisfy thinking Egyptians is not out of the question, but it can be arranged only when her thinking men are not influenced by mob clamour.

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IRRIGATION IN PERSIA.

Persia is one of those countries where over the greater portion agriculture can be carried out only by means of artificial irrigation. Many towns and villages, indeed, are dependent for their existence upon a more or less extensive system of artificial canalisation. The exceptions to this state of affairs are to be found in the two provinces of Gilan and Mazanderan, situated along the southern coast of the Caspian Sea. Here the protection of the lofty ranges of the Elburz Mountains against the hot, dry southern currents of air assures a warm and damp climate with an even distribution of rainfall, and in such quantities as to keep the soil moist. This territory, moreover, is well watered by the rivers and watercourses coming down from the mountains. Vegetation is, in consequence, luxuriant; dense forests cover the hill slopes and a great part of the lowlands. The population is numerous. Rice is the chief article of cultivation, as corn does not grow well. Rice, it need hardly be mentioned, requires intensive irrigation, the fields having to be flooded. For this purpose the land is irrigated by a network of canals and watercourses leading from the main streams.

The tableland of Persia presents a very different aspect. Here, vast arid plains and valleys alternate with ranges of mountains almost entirely devoid of vegetation; only occasionally on the summits of the high mountains are to be found fairly good alpine pastures. Some valleys, it is true, are well watered and have splendid gardens and plantations of trees; many towns and villages also are surrounded by large flourishing fruit gardens and fields, but they remain oases in a desert, and their existence is linked up with artificial irrigation.

During six or seven months in the year, from April to November, hardly any rainfall is registered, and everything depends upon the quantity of snow that has fallen during the winter on the mountains. This snow, melting slowly and gradually, supplies the necessary water for irrigation in summer time, and renews the water supply in wells and underground channels. When, therefore, the snowfall is scarce, wells and underground channels are liable to have too little water for irrigation purposes, and the population runs the risk of famine, as there is rarely more grain in store than is necessary for the year's use and the surplus required for next year's seed.

In some of the more elevated tracts of the country, artificial irrigation for the fields is not needed. The crops ripen towards the end of May, but the grain is inferior to that of irrigated land. Fruit gardens and vineyards in these parts are still dependent on artificial irrigation. Here, after the harvest has been gathered, all that is left in the ground dries up and the soil assumes the same desolate aspect as the rest of the country.

In the spring, the rivers and streams flowing from the mountains bring down a great quantity of water, especially when there has been a heavy rainfall in the mountains. At times the current of water may be overpowering, destroying bridges and sweeping away anything else in its course. Part of this water will be used for irrigation, led by open channels for many miles over the land, but as soon as the water has fallen below the level required to feed these canals, these particular tracts are left without irrigation. As the streams debouch on the plains, they are apt to cut their beds deep into the soft clay or loess of the steppes and continue to flow for the most part through a kind of cañon with perpendicular sides from 50 to 100 ft. high. Moreover, in the case of many rivers and streams, the water, after leaving the mountains for a few miles, absorbs in the plain such quantities of salt from the saline sub-stratum that it becomes brackish and useless for irrigation purposes. Other streams dry up entirely in the summer. At present there is no system in vogue for storing the superfluous water of the spring for irrigation purposes in summer, and a vast amount flows to waste, finding its way to the sea or into the saline *kavir* or salt desert of Central Persia.

Nearly all the mountain ranges in Persia rise abruptly out of the plains without any length of gradually sloping foothills. At the foot of these mountains, and especially where the streams flow down, piling up boulders and sand, the ground consists to a considerable extent of loose conglomerate, broken stones and boulders which gradually change in the direction of the fall of the ground into sand and finally clay and loess. These accumulations of porous material form ideal reservoirs for underground water, dammed up as they are by the clay and the loess schists. At such places the people sink pits until they reach water. They then dig a row of similar pits at distances of about 20 yards apart in the direction of the slope of the ground, so that the bottoms of the pits are on one horizontal line which gradually reaches the surface of the soil. These pits are then connected with each other by underground passages about 5 ft. high and 4 ft. broad, which are driven from the surface of the soil right through to the first pit at the foot of the mountains. As soon as the last passage has been cleared the water rushes through and is distributed by a system of open watercourses on to the fields and gardens as well as to the cisterns of the private houses and other buildings. Such is the principal method of irrigation of the greater part of Persia and some of the neighbouring countries; the underground channels so constructed may bring the water from ten to fifteen miles before it reaches its destination. At the upper and lower end the pits are constructed in the form of a funnel, whereas the central part is a straight tube of about 4 ft. in diameter, and laid out with stones. The mouths of the pits are surrounded by small mounds, consisting of earth and stones brought up when digging the pits and passages. These small mounds may be seen on the surface of the plain in long lines, marking the course of the underground canals, and serve as a protection for men or animals from tumbling down the openings. The pits are afterwards used in the extraction of stones and earth when the canal is cleaned or repaired, with the aid of a wooden windlass and a leather bucket fastened to a rope.

One of the largest underground basins of accumu-

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lated water is situated to the north of Teheran, at the foot of the Shemran mountains, which rise to an elevation of about 12,600 ft. below the Valley of Shemran. From this basin over 50 underground canals lead to Teheran and the surrounding villages and gardens, and the rows of mounds cover the whole plain surrounding the city. It would seem that the ancient town of Rhages or Rey, and the present capital of Persia, Teheran, owe their existence to this large accumulation of underground water at Shemran. The American missionaries at Teheran had an artesian well sunk in their garden, but it yielded only brackish water owing to the miocene beds underneath the clay and loess, which are saline everywhere in Persia.

As the canals are simply dug into the ground without the usual finish of stones, etc., a quantity of water is always absorbed by the soil and lost; only at one place, at the village of Raver, north of Kerman, where water is scarce, tubes of kilnburnt and glazed clay are in use. In places where the water supply is limited the Persians construct at the mouth of the canal tanks or basins, in which the water is first collected and then allowed to flow with a rush over the fields and land in order to ensure an even distribution of water.

In ancient times attempts were made to dam up narrow valleys and so preserve water for irrigation purposes. Ruins of such dams, built of kilnburnt bricks and stones, are still to be found near the village of Kohrud, to the south-west of Kashan, and on the Kara-su river to the south of Saveh. Why the construction of these dams was discontinued is a mystery, since they were the only means of preserving for irrigation a great part of the water which at present flows useless towards the saline swamps or *kavir*. The construction of such dams, if well built, certainly costs a good deal of money, but the revenues would doubtless in time be large enough to cover the outlay and also to give sufficiently high dividends, not taking into account the benefit which would accrue to the inhabitants of the land by reason of their being able to cultivate larger tracts of land, which are at present only arid deserts.

Owing to lack of water, not quite 5 per cent. of the plains and valleys can at present be used for cultivation, though the soil is exceedingly fertile and only requires watering to yield rich crops. More cultivated land would also, no doubt, improve the climate to a certain extent.

There are numerous mountain valleys and ravines which are well adapted for damming up, and the accumulated water could be used not only for irrigation purposes, but also as power for the production of electricity. Such enterprises would prove sound investments for capital. As an illustration of how profitable enterprises of this kind may be, may be mentioned the case of a dam which was built in the year 1836 by English engineers over the rivers Coleroon and Cauvery, in India. The canal leading from it irrigated at first 267,600 hectares, but afterwards, in the districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly, and South-Arcot, 367,816 hectares. The capital invested for this construction amounted to Rs. 1,829,690, and now pays a dividend of about 37 per cent.

Another enterprise of that kind in India is the Godavery system, which cost 11,024,190 rupees, irrigates a territory of 244,800 hectares, and still pays over 12 per cent. dividend.

That the Persian Government is not able to undertake such enterprises is evident, as it has neither the technical engineers, nor money, nor sufficient credit to raise the necessary money in the country. Only foreign enterprise and capital can help to do such work.

Though the plain around is practically the best irrigated in the country, there are still many hectares of land, especially to the north-east and east of Teheran, which could be cultivated if necessary water were at hand. It is quite possible that a part of the water of the Djajerud river could be brought over a watershed to the Teheran plain without too heavy expenses, if an arrangement could be made to ensure that the quantity of water used by the Varamin plain for the irrigation of its fields be not diminished.

SERBIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY.

The Serbian Red Cross Society in Great Britain, which was founded in August, 1914, on the outbreak of the War, has now been dissolved. The residue of its funds have been invested by the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds, and an annual income of about £1,000 has been secured for the maintenance of the orphanage at Uzice and the other charitable work of the parent society in Serbia. To reward their special services a silver medal has been struck and awarded to a number of ladies and gentlemen, British as well as Serbian, connected with the Society's operations in England, including :—

Mr. Frank Hastings (the chairman), Sir George Beatson, the Dowager Lady Boyle, Sir James Cantlie, Brigadier-General C. G. Fortescue, Sir C. L. des Graz, Sir Alfred Keogh, Sir R. Heaton Rhodes, Sir Arthur Stanley, Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, Sir John and Lady Lynn Thomas, Colonel Sir Edward Ward, Mrs. Carrington Wilde, Miss Olga Nethersole, Sir Edward Boyle, Dame C. Guthrie Reid, and Mr. C. E. Osborn, the secretary.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

British Trade and the Loan.

In previous Notes I have dealt with some of the main aspects of the trade position as influenced by the Reparations settlement, but it seems desirable to revert to the subject again, as some quite erroneous views are being put forward as to the probable effects of a loan to Germany. In some quarters, indeed, the fact seems to be overlooked that ever since the Armistice we have been anxiously looking for a European settlement which would once again enable the wheels of trade to revolve normally. There has never been any doubt as to the seriousness of German competition, but equally it has been recognised that only through a general settlement could the way be opened for the development of British trade. But now the view is put forward that the proposed loan to Germany is a method of dealing a severe blow at our commerce, but it is interesting to note no alternative is suggested, and we are left to assume that it would be best to allow matters to go on as they are, with unemployment increasing in this country, until Europe generally is in a state of chaos.

The Question of Competition.

Of course, it was impossible to stand still, and the way in view is the only means that has been put forward that would seem to offer a reasonable prospect of ending the trade impasse. As I have said, German competition, aided as it will be by the long hours worked in Germany and other factors, will be very serious, much more so indeed than before the war. But in the pre-War period British manufacturers rose superior to their difficulties, and are we to assume that in the intervening decade they have lost all their energy and all their initiative? It is true that one might answer this question in the affirmative were one to judge the position solely by British relations with some of the Near East markets, but these have hitherto not been among the chosen hunting grounds of the British manufacturer, though they will have to be in the future if British trade is to reach an adequate volume. Actually, however, with the limited scope at their disposal, restricted as it has been by the vastly reduced purchasing power of the world, British exporters have not done badly, and the statistics certainly do not justify a pessimistic outlook. The difficulty is, of course, that it is not merely necessary now to obtain trade on the pre-war scale, for the population in this country now demands a much greater volume of exports. That, indeed, is the problem.

The Prospects.

In my view, whatever the ultimate outcome as regards German competition, the immediate effect of the settlement cannot be otherwise than extremely beneficial for British trade. The markets where we have suffered chiefly have been those which, like India, mainly depend for their export trade on raw materials. While so many European countries have been out of the market as regards purchases on an extensive scale, the natural result has been that the purchasing power of the regions concerned has declined—to our detriment—for if countries cannot sell it is equally certain that they will be unable to buy. This lack of world purchasing power has been the main factor in our economic discontent. The settlement will mean a marked and immediate demand for raw commodities, and will thus lead to an increase in purchasing power in just those regions where this development will be most advantageous from our point of view.

The Cotton Position.

If the crop estimates are borne out it will have to be admitted that a very great change has taken place in the cotton position. From the latest American Bureau report it would appear certain that a crop of about 13,000,000 bales will be forthcoming, while the yield of the Egyptian crop promises to be substantially in advance of that of last year. When in addition the rapidly increasing production in the Sudan is borne in mind, it will be evident that the available cotton should at least be ample for the season's requirements. Faced as we are with the prospect of an immediate development of consumption as a result of the European settlement, this development is little short of providential, for it will mean that at a time of increasing demand cotton will not only be plentiful but also cheap, the latter factor being all-important, for dear cotton would tend to retard, if not to check, the revival of the demand for Lancashire's productions.

A Turkish Joke?

A report that the authorities at Constantinople are offering a prize for the most practical method of enabling the city to recover its economic position makes very strange hearing. Indeed, if one did not know the Turks too well to believe them capable of such a thing, one might justifiably suspect that here was some strange species of humour.

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For the ill-advised actions of the Turks themselves, and nothing else, are responsible for the city's present plight, and the only remedy for the existing state of affairs is the adoption of an entirely different line of policy from that which has hitherto been pursued. Constantinople's position as a gateway between East and West, as a port of transit for Anatolia and the Black Sea, is unsurpassed; but it was not due to the Turks that adequate capital was made out of the site in the past, but to the foreign residents who supplied the requisite enterprise which would have been almost wholly lacking if it had been left to the Turks themselves.

Foreign Enterprise at a Discount.

The steps taken by the Turks up to the present time suggest that they have a very inadequate perception of the true position. It is to be assumed that they really are desirous of restoring their country to its pre-war position at the earliest possible moment, but, if so, judging by what has happened at Constantinople, they have adopted the very worst possible means of attaining that end. Their policy has been, in short, to hamper foreign enterprise in every conceivable way by means of regulations and restrictions, and while signs have not been wanting of an improvement in recent months, the position is still most unsatisfactory, and Constantinople is still in a state of commercial stagnation and is likely to remain so until there is an entire change of outlook on the part of the authorities. In the Smyrna region, as I pointed out recently, there really is a revival of business activity, but Smyrna is mainly dependent on its fruit crop, and recovery there was in any case only a question of time, but Constantinople stands in a vastly different position, and its development must depend on foreign enterprise, for nothing in their history suggests that the Turks are likely to display those qualities that go to the building up of a great commercial centre. One wonders how long it will take to convince them of that fact.

The Concession Game.

No more interesting sidelight could be found on Turkish methods than their attitude in the last few years in respect of the granting of concessions. There have been, as the Turks expected would be the case, many would-be concessionaires, but out of all the protracted negotiations that have been carried out how many concessions have actually been granted? Briefly, the Turks have wanted too much. On the one hand, they have over-estimated the attractiveness of concessions in Turkey; on the other hand, they have given the foreigner credit for too great keenness to obtain concessions, and from the combination of these two factors they expected to reap very considerable advantages, and they have been disappointed. The fact is that no one is seriously going to consider concessions which are hedged about with impossible restrictions, and the result of the Turk's methods is that practically nothing has been done.

Rubber and Restrictions.

Despite the reduced output, the price of rubber has not risen much and now stands fractionally below 1s. 2d. As almost half the present quarter has now elapsed it would seem obvious that the prospect of the raw commodity averaging 1s. 3d. for the three months is very remote, and if it fails to do so there will be a further reduction. Like everything else, rubber has suffered from the situation in Europe, and it will not be surprising if in the next few months there is a sharp rise in the price as the European countries are in a position to satisfy their requirements to some extent. An ultimate rise is assured, for the consumption of rubber is continually on the up-grade, and only time is required for consumption to catch up production.

Commentator.

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MARKET FOR ELECTRIC FANS IN EGYPT.

The market in Egypt for electric fans, though confined to the larger cities of Alexandria, Cairo, Damanhour, Mansura, Port Said, Tanta, and Zagazig, offers opportunity for trade (says an American Consular report). Warm, humid weather may be counted on during five or six months of the year, commencing with the latter part of April and ending in September or October. Electric fans are indispensable to business houses during the open hours, but they are not used to so great an extent in the homes as they are in the United States, the nights being comparatively cool. Italian and German fans are most widely sold in Egypt at present.

Practically all the larger cities in Egypt now are supplied with electricity. Current for household use is either 110 volts alternating or 220 volts direct. A 440-volt current is available in many cities for use in manufacturing. Rates run from 3 to 5 piastres per kilowatt hour for household use, while the manufacturing establishments pay a fixed monthly rate per lamp or motor. The exclusive sales agents for the different makes of fans carry on an extensive newspaper and billboard advertising campaign. Any new fans, prices considered equal, would have to allot a liberal advertising allowance to the agent to overcome the established trade names now on the market.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Greek Moratorium Law has been further extended to October 31.

The Bank of Athens announces an interim dividend of 5 per cent., free of Greek taxes.

The production of the Steaua Romana (Bucharest) for August was 24,830 tons, as compared with 24,920 tons for the previous month, and 19,094 tons for August, 1923.

Messrs. William Symons and Co., Ltd., Renfrew, have built a cutter, suction hopper dredger—the Liger—for the Anglo-Persian Oil Company for work at Basrah. The dredger has been constructed under the direction of Messrs. Rendel Palmer and Tritton, consulting engineers, London.

Reuter's Belgrade Correspondent, in a message dated September 5, states:—The negotiations which have been proceeding for some time with an American group for the payment of the second part of the loan granted in July, 1922, were concluded yesterday, the American group agreeing to place a portion of the money at the disposal of the Government at once and the balance at a later date. The money will be used for the completion of railway construction.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Small Trade in Dried Fruit.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Coffee.—A harder tendency has been in evidence. Costa Rica has risen to 155s., an advance of 5s. on the week. East Indian is unchanged at 135s. Kenya is unaltered at 116s., while Santos is the same at 100s.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair request. Tate's cubes have been done at 46s. 3d., London granulated is 40s. 4½d., while Lyle's granulated is 40s. 7½d. Foreign descriptions are steady, with West Indian crystallised at 35s. 6d., White Mauritius at 35s., White Java at 36s. 3d., and Czech granulated at 38s. 9d. Futures have been somewhat irregular. Quotations are:—October, 23s. 9d.; November, 22s. 6¾d.; December, 21s. 1½d.

Maize.—A quiet but steady tone has been in evidence. La Plata spot has been done at 41s. 9d., while October-November sold at 41s. 6d., November-December at 42s. 1½d., and December-January at 42s. 7½d.

Currants.—The crop position has overshadowed the market, and business has been on a quiet scale, and is likely to continue so until the situation is clearer. This year's production promises to be greatly in excess of last year's, so that a sharp decline in prices may be anticipated.

Sultanas.—A fair business has been done in this commodity, the Australian fruit being in considerable favour. With the arrival this week of a consignment of the new crop of Smyrna sultanas there should be more activity in the market.

Figs.—This week will see the arrival of the first consignment of this season's crop, and, in view of the absence of supplies, it is inevitable that prices should rule high at first.

Plums.—Stocks are scarce, and quotations are very hard. It would appear that Bosnian fruit is not likely to figure so largely in this market this season as has been the case in recent years, as the crop is reported to be rather poor.

Oilcakes.—On the whole, the tendency during the week has been for prices to firm up. Linseed cake, exceptionally, is 5s. down at 280s., but coconut cake is 20s. up at 210s.: while cottonseed cake at 185s. is 12s. 6d. up.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been quiet, Indian being 22s. 4½d., while La Plata is 20s. 6d. Rapeseed has been fairly firm. Toria is 21s. 7½d., while real bold Ferozepore is 21s. 3d Cottonseed has been steady; Indian is 11s., Egyptian black is 13s. 6d., while Sakellaridis is 12s. 9d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed oil has been steady, closing at 43s. Rape oil has been quiet, with crude at 48s. 6d., and technical refined at 51s. 6d. Cottonseed oil has been steady. Refined common edible is 50s., Bombay crude is 42s., Egyptian crude is 44s., technical is 46s., while deodorised is 51s. 6d.

Oranges.—A good demand is still in evidence, and as supplies of South African are now on the small side, the tone of the market is very firm.

The production of the Indo-Burma Oilfields (1920) for July amounted to 4,103.7 barrels (2,715.6 barrels from Yenanma field and 1,388.1 barrels from Padaukpin field.)

It is notified in the Sudan Government Gazette of August 10, that the total import duty on medicated or medicinal wines containing alcohol not exceeding 23 per cent. of their volume is 15 per cent. ad valorem. The allowance made on such wines on which duty has been paid to the Egyptian Customs is 8 per cent. ad valorem.

GREEK EXPORT TAX ON CURRANTS.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Company, in their monthly report dated September 1, state:—

Currants.—The chief factor influencing the market has been the decision of the Greek Government to impose an export tax on the 1924 crop. This, coming as a great surprise to the trade, had the immediate effect of advancing all c.i.f. quotations of new crop now in the course of harvesting, first shipments being momentarily expected to leave Greece. The intention of the Government is to utilise the proceeds of the tax for purchasing currants for wine and spirit making purposes, thus keeping prices from falling below a fixed minimum. They consider this will help to foster the industry and keep prices from slumping. Prior to this news being known, contracts on the basis of 37s. c.i.f. for new crop Pyrgos growth had been passed; merchants now quoting 45s. 6d. c.i.f. The August holidays interrupted the early month's trading, but the reported passing of the new law by the Greek Government has stimulated the demand, and we close the month with an advance of 2s. to 3s. on the lower grades. Trading has centred chiefly in cleaned varieties, from 45s. to 48s. Other sales comprise Zante 47s. to 49s., Gulf 51s. to 52s., Vostizza Common 48s., Ordinary 50s., Good 55s. to 60s., up to 67s. for Shade Dried.

There were no arrivals during August, but the s.s. Sea Serpent is on the water with 700 tons, and is expected in a week's time. Quotations:—Pyrgos 44s., Pyrgos cleaned 45s. to 48s., Amalias 45s. to 47s., Zante 47s. to 49s., Gulf and Panariti 51s. to 55s., Vostizza 50s. to 66s. Australian fruit has

£435,000

has been expended by the Union Government on irrigating the fertile lands comprised in the

Kendrew Directed Closer Settlement

where free training with a free option to acquire land after training is offered to suitable settlers commanding £1,500 capital (less required if in receipt of pension or income). The

HIGH COMMISSIONER for the UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

will be pleased to answer enquiries regarding soil, irrigation and training.

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AFRICAN IRRIGATED LAND CO., LTD.,
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benefited very considerably, and quite an active period of trading set in at figures ranging from 50s. to 54s. The following steamers, Nestor, Banffshire, and Suevic, brought additional supplies.

Sultanas.—Making allowance for the Bank Holiday period, when trading is usually exceptionally quiet, a fair amount of progress is in evidence. The scarcity of Smyrna stocks, which are practically finished, is concentrating the attention of traders more on to the Australian growths which have been arriving freely during the past few weeks, and Australasia has not been slow in taking advantage of this temporary shortage to unload all possible, and, as arrivals have been fairly important this month, a considerable quantity of fruit has passed into consumption at 50s. to 54s. The first shipment of new crop Smyrna is afloat per s.s. Gerano, but so far very little business is reported on the overland tin samples that have arrived. Some interest has been displayed in good average quality, August shipment, at 42s. to 43s., September shipment at 38s. 6d. to 39s. October shipment at 37s., on a c.i.f. basis. Greeks cleared 50s. to 52s., Capes sundried 47s. to 50s., Capes bleached 55s. to 60s.

Figs.—S.s. Gerano is bringing the first skeleton cases of the new harvest. Further sales are reported in Genuines at 23s. 6d. to 24s. c.i.f., September shipment.

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Mosul, August 8.—Fresh activity is to be noted in the market for wool destined for export. The batman is now quoted at Rs. 13.8, as against Rs. 10—the quotation for the past fifteen days.

Jaffa, August 16.—The new taxes imposed by the Palestine Customs authorities have compelled merchants to adopt an attitude of greater reserve in their sales, which has resulted in a decline in transactions as compared with the previous week.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. report as follows for the week ended August 30 :—

The arrivals of sultanas are estimated at 8,000 tons, and the sales to date are put at 7,000 tons. Closing prices : Per cwt. c.i.f., London/Liverpool, type 12, 44s. ; 13, 47s. ; 14, 49s. ; 15, 51s. ; 16, 55s. ; 17, unobtainable. The market ruled steady until Friday, when slight rain was general over the raisin districts. The consequences could not be immediately judged, and, under the apprehension of damage, Saturday's prices advanced some 2s. to 3s. per cwt. The market closed firm, but is dependent on future weather conditions, and reaction may follow. The damage to date, if any, will mainly affect quality. The estimates of the crop are unchanged. The weather at the time of writing appears to be clearing. There have as yet been no arrivals of fine grades on the market. No rain fell in the fig districts.

The Phœnix Oil and Transport Company has brought in two further large wells in the Moreni Field.

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895).
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and General Re-insurance Company "BALKAN."
Capital : Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000.
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

ENGINEERING TOPICS.

CEMENT MANUFACTURE IN THE EAST.

The manifold uses of cement, and especially its employment for the manufacture of concrete, which is so largely used at the present day in place of brick and stone for structural purposes, render it of no little importance that all countries should be able to obtain cement for local use at a reasonable cost. In many overseas countries, particularly those remote from the present centres of production, the use of cement is greatly restricted owing to the heavy cost of shipment and the consequent high price of imported supplies.

Portland cement is already being made in large quantities in several countries of the overseas Empire, such as Canada, Union of South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and India, whilst operations on a smaller scale are being carried on in the Sudan, Rhodesia, and Malaya. It seems probable that the raw products required for cement manufacture exist in nearly all parts of the Empire, but hitherto little information has been available regarding the possibilities of establishing a cement industry in most of the Crown Colonies and Protectorates. Considerable attention has been devoted to this question in recent years by the Imperial Institute, where a fully equipped cement testing laboratory has been installed, and the first part of an interesting article on the subject is published in the current issue of the quarterly *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute*. An outline is given of the manufacture and properties of different kinds of cements, special attention being devoted to the characteristics required in the raw materials used for the several classes of cement now employed in building. This is followed by particulars relating to the possibilities of cement manufacture in the Crown Colonies and Protectorates; under each country is given an account of the deposits so far known, results of tests carried out at the Imperial Institute, and a discussion of the prospects of establishing a cement-making industry. In the first part, now published, British West Africa is dealt with. It is shown that cement materials occur in Nigeria which are worth further investigation and technical trial, particularly in view of the occurrence in the country of deposits of coal and lignite, which could be used as fuel. Suitable limestones appear to occur also in the Gold Coast, but there seems to be little prospect of finding in Sierra Leone materials in sufficient quantity for cement manufacture.

Many of our readers will be interested in the news that Mr. James Horne has just retired from active service with Messrs. Vickers, Limited. He joined the Barrow factory in August, 1898, as chief hydraulic engineer to the company, and his special work has been the designing of heavy gun mountings and accessory mechanisms, and his brilliant gifts in this direction have won for himself and for Vickers world-wide recognition. Designing genius has not been the only distinguished feature of Mr. Horne's service, for to his technical talents have been added a commercial acumen and a soundness of general judgment which have been of much value to the company. It is particularly interesting to learn that Mr. Horne has acceded to the request of the directors that his services may still be available to them in an advisory capacity.

The British Overseas Bank announces that funds for the payment of the coupon due October 1 on the bonds of the Roumanian Four per Cent. Consolidation Loan, 1922, were lodged with them on September 1 by the Roumanian Government.

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British Consular Reports.

VI.—YUGOSLAVIA—(continued).

I.—Zagreb District.

The following extracts are taken from the report of Mr. G. T. Maclean, H.M. Consul at Zagreb, on the conditions in the district of Zagreb in 1923:—

In the report for this consular district for the year 1922 the outlook at the close of the year was summed up as "hopeful but distrustful." It is regrettable to have to report that at the close of 1923 the situation has not improved to the extent that might have been expected.

In a country such as Yugoslavia, where the national welfare depends in so high a degree on the products of the soil, the harvest and the means of export of the surplus thereof are questions of primary importance. While the harvest of 1922 was reckoned a failure, the result being that there was an excess of imports of about 1,500 million dinars, the present year's harvest has been a fairly good one. On paper an "active" trade balance in the year under review is confidently anticipated. In spite of this theoretically favourable position, however, the situation is not, in fact, satisfactory, owing to (a) The extreme shortage of ready money. (b) The shortcomings of the transport system. (c) The export tariffs, the result of which is that trade in general is hindered and the agricultural products of the country cannot compete successfully in the world's markets.

At the beginning of the year most of the banks and business houses were still suffering from the restraining effects of the previous financial régime, but as time went on arrangements began to be made for liquidating and writing off debts and raising new credits, when suddenly the new deflation policy began to be operative, upsetting all calculations and introducing a vicious circle of money shortage. The peasants and working classes, who were always inclined to hoard money, were induced to do this to a greater extent, increasing the scarcity among the banks and wholesalers. This resulted in the calling in of loans, unsuccessful in many cases, restriction of credits to merchants and manufacturers, raising of interest to unprecedented heights, stoppage of new business and enterprise, and finally general stagnation of trade.

The shortcomings of the transport system are often attributed by the authorities to shortage of goods wagons, but it is probable that this can be remedied by better organisation, and by increasing the resources of the repair shops, which are not sufficient to keep level with the work. There has been a considerable shortage of wagons, and the authorities have drawn up a list of the principal exports of the country in order of preference, goods lower on the list being compelled to wait until wagons are available after moving the higher-placed commodities.

Commerce and Industry.

Owing to the financial stringency, the year 1923 was a difficult one for industry, new enterprises falling roughly to about half of last year's totals. Statistics are practically non-existent, but figures have been obtained for Slovenia and show in the first three-quarters of the year 2,652 new firms of all descriptions and 1,373 withdrawals from business.

The export from Yugoslavia as a whole is directed to the following countries, but the percentages are only approximate:—Italy, 29 per cent.; Austria, 22; Switzerland, 9; Germany, 5; Hungary, 5; France, 4. The import was chiefly from:—Italy, 32 per cent.; Austria, 30; Switzerland, 7; Czecho-Slovakia, 6; Germany, 5; Hungary, 4; England, 3; France, 3.

It will be observed that the leading place is held by Italy. As regards the others, Austria is holding her ground, Switzerland tends to improve, and German trade is distinctly slacker. The inability of German firms to compete as strongly as hitherto in these markets should provide an opportunity for British firms. Unfortunately, however, the money shortage and the ingrained conservatism of Croatian firms operate on this side against the opening up of new connections, while on their side British firms do not as a rule appear inclined to agree to the terms of trading usual in this country, and it is only too likely that the opportunity will be seized by Swiss and Czech firms.

The principal articles in demand in this country are:—Agricultural machinery, agricultural and horticultural seeds, leather in skins and patent leather, boots and shoes, luxury articles, especially furs, silks, perfumery, soap powder, etc., railway material (here the demand has been largely filled up to the present by reparations consignments from Germany), chemicals, especially varnish, alcohol, wax, drugs and medicines, ether oil, explosives, and chemical manures, paper and pasteboard, textiles. Further may be mentioned scientific instruments, motor-cars and spares and tyres, rubber and rubber goods, books and printers' materials, electric machinery and fittings, glass and glassware and pottery, articles for sport.

Road Transport.

This is still extremely backward, in spite of the shortcomings of the railway service, and should have a future before it. During the last year several motor post diligences were received from Germany on reparations account, and were placed, among others, on the routes: Karlovac-Plitvica-Bihac-Senj, Gracac-Knin, and Zagreb-Dugoselo-Bjelovar.

The main roads in Croatia and Slovenia were, before the war, distinctly good, but have fallen into considerable disrepair, especially in Croatia. In the mountainous districts, although on the whole the roads are wonderful examples of engineering, sharp turns are many and stiff gradients up to as much as 28 per cent. are met with, while gradients of 10 to 18 per cent. are frequent.

Cars considered suitable for the district should be of sturdy construction, capable of a good performance on hills with a low petrol consumption. The ideal passenger car should be of 20-25 b.h.p., should not weigh more than 1,000 kg., and should be capable of maintaining a speed of 60-80 km. per hour and surmounting gradients of at least 6 per cent. on top without appreciable diminution of this speed. Intermediate gear ratios must be such as will enable the car to surmount gradients mentioned above without boiling. Fuel consumption should not exceed 10-12 litres per 100 km., and the selling price should be between 60,000 and 200,000 dinars—£150 to £500. Motor cycles should be able to maintain a speed of 70-90 km. per hour, with fuel consumption of from 3½ to 6 litres per 100 km. Price should be 30-40,000 dinars—say, £75-£100.

Lorries of 3-ton average capacity are most in demand, price 150-200,000 dinars. Ford cars at 60,000 dinars have a ready sale, but also the small (501) Fiat at 130,000 dinars has had very considerable success recently. There is also a small but extremely spasmodic demand for luxury cars of the really expensive descriptions.

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It is considered that the general opinion prevailing in the Zagreb area that British cars are unsuitable for the local conditions and are too expensive is not entirely correct, and that there should be a market, even if to begin with a limited one, for them. It must be emphasised that no dealer here could be persuaded to purchase a British car on the chance of finding a market. One or two cars should be sent on consignment, and, judging by the success which has attended a dealer who obtained motor-cars on these terms, good business should be done if the cars are suitable and the price reasonable.

There are in this district (Slovenia, Croatia, and Slavonia) about 1,600 passenger cars, 500 commercial lorries, and 800 motor-cycles.

Miscellaneous.

Satisfactory progress has been made by the lead mines at Mezica (Central European Mines, Ltd.) and the coal mines at Golubovec (Mines and Industries of Yugoslavia, Ltd.), while considerable extensions are being made in the coal-mining concessions at Pragersko (Podloz-Hrastovec Premogovna Druzba z.o.z.).

A well-known British firm has established in Zagreb a representative for the Balkans, and has good hopes of competing successfully with German and other firms in agricultural machinery, portable boilers, etc.

It is expected that in the course of 1924 an automatic telephone system will be installed with a capacity for 10,000 subscribers. The contract for this has been given to Germany. The installation of the central system will involve a new extension of the present General Post Office.

The question of a wireless broadcasting station has been mooted, and land is said to have been obtained near Velika Gorica for the purpose, but the matter is still in the preliminary stage.

Owing to the financial stringency, there has been a great slackening of building activity during the past year, there being only three important buildings under construction, viz., the new Esplanade Hotel, the new Bourse building, and the new building for the Municipal Savings Bank (Gradska Stedionica).

The housing question is becoming gradually less serious. For residents house and flat accommodation is still very restricted, and for new buildings the prices are extremely high.

It cannot be said that the trade and traffic between Yugoslavia and the United Kingdom has made any great advance in 1923. It is in a way unfortunate that the general restriction in purchasing capacity should have supervened at a time when Germany was becoming increasingly unable to deliver goods at less than the world level of prices and in general when Great Britain's opportunity for successful competition was increasing. It must be confessed, however, that British firms, taken all round, do not appear anxious to extend their business relations with this country, or at least are not prepared to make any concessions in order to obtain an entry into the Yugoslav markets.

For the benefit of the firms who do make inquiries as to openings here, it should be stated that it is impossible to give any definite opinion unless prices and terms of trading are sent with the inquiry. The local importer takes no interest whatever in an academic proposal of a new source of supply when no details are given of how this new source will compare with his present one from the point of view of his personal profit. There is furthermore no hope of initiating new business on a basis of confirmed credits in London before delivery and little on that of payments against documents. It is considered that the most satisfactory method of doing business with Yugoslavia is for a firm or group of firms to send out a suitable general representative with power to appoint *del credere* agents in the various districts. When this is impossible, a firm wishing to enter this market must be prepared to grant credit. Risk may be minimised by careful inquiries in advance and by adopting all available measures of assurance, such as bank guarantees, but without a modicum of risk there can be no new business. Finally, this market is worthy of more attention than it at present receives.

II.—BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA.

The following extracts are taken from the report on some aspects of the agricultural, industrial, and commercial situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina during the period 1918-23, by Mr. C. A. Greig, H.M. Consul at Sarajevo, and Count H. Stenbock, Secretary to the Consulate :—

Owing to extreme drought, 1922 was perhaps the worst season recorded in the past twenty years. Autumn sowings of wheat, barley, and rye yielded respectively 43, 56, and 39 per cent. less than in 1921. In 1923 there was a marked improvement, the collective harvest falling little short of pre-war figures, though maize suffered from the scanty rainfall.

Plums are an important asset, claiming from 8 to 10 per cent. of the area devoted to fruit culture. The exceptionally plentiful crop of 1823, amounting to 254,743 metric tons (compared with the annual average for the period 1920-22 inclusive of 139,442 metric tons), was comparable with the bumper yields of 1898, 1904, and 1918, notwithstanding the almost unbroken drought which set in before the budding season and continued, aggravated by inordinately high temperatures, especially in the Posavina Plain, the principal plum-growing district, throughout the period of development. From January till September the rainfall was much below the normal, and consequently the fruit was of medium size. It was, however, of good quality and abundant, the dried plums containing 41.60 per cent. of sugar. Of the total crop 50 to 55 per cent. was dried, as compared with 65 to 70 per cent. in 1922; 37 per cent. was used for the production of plum brandy; 7 per cent was made into fruit paste, about half of which was exported; and 3 to 4 per cent. was exported raw, mainly to Austria. At Brcko, the traditional centre of the plum industry, the price of this season's dried plums has ranged from 3½ dinars at the opening of the selling period to 7 to 8 dinars per kilogram, or 40,000 to 50,000 dinars per wagon of 10,000 kilograms.

Whereas last season 1922-23) the qualities most in demand for export were those averaging 60-65, 70-75, and 80-85 plums to the kilogram, in the present season (1923-24) a preference has been shown for the qualities containing 80-85 and 90-95 units to the kilogram. The British, French, and German markets require plums twice dried and of the best quality. Other purchasing countries are Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, Holland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland.

In the case of the 1923 crop great care seems to have been taken to ensure the conscientious drying of the exported fruit, shortcomings in this respect in 1922 having favoured French and Californian competition.

Viticulture is carried on to a much greater extent in the comparatively equable climate of the Herzegovinian valleys than in Bosnia, where alternations of raw damp and intense cold often prevail for five months in the year. Since 1913 the ravages of phylloxera have appreciably reduced the area

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under cultivation, which, from 5,640 hectares in 1910, fell to 4,200 in 1923. To counteract this evil 500,000 American plants were recently distributed among the growers by the Agricultural Department, which has also combated *peronospera* and *oidium* by means of sulphur and copper-sulphate. In 1923 the vintage amounted to 113,640 hectolitres, as compared with a yearly average of 102,720 hectolitres during the period 1920-22 inclusive.

Herzegovinian wine is rich in sugar and alcohol. About two-thirds of the amount produced in 1923 was white and one-third red. It is estimated that half of the total output was made in the Mostar district, the remainder coming from Konjic, Stolac, Ljubuski, and Trebinje. Mostar wine, white and red, contains 11½-13½ degrees of alcohol, and is more highly esteemed than other local blends, which contain 10½-11½ degrees. Approximately three-quarters of the entire yield is sent to Bosnia and the other parts of Yugoslavia, the remainder being consumed in the producing regions. The export of Herzegovinian wine to Czecho-Slovakia and Austria, where it was used to strengthen weaker kinds, has ceased since the adoption by those States of prohibitive customs and railway tariffs.

Tobacco is grown mainly in Herzegovina, where it plays much the same part in agricultural economy as the plum in Bosnia. Some 3,650 hectares are under cultivation in Herzegovina and 600 in Bosnia. The crop of 1923, amounting to 2,800 metric tons, exceeded the average yearly yield for the period 1920-22 inclusive, which was in round figures 2,300 metric tons. The crop is purchased of the growers by the State Monopoly, which owns factories at Sarajevo, Mostar, Banjaluka, and Travnik, the collective output of which was in 1923 1,198,425,000 cigarettes and 5,048,000 kilograms of tobacco in packets. During the year 257,075,400 cigarettes and 1,280,900 kilograms of tobacco in packets were consumed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, whilst 813,751,000 cigarettes and 1,593,500 kilograms of tobacco in packets were sent to other parts of Yugoslavia.

Agricultural Machinery in Use.

Light ploughs with a single share weighing 30-33 kilograms are most generally used, being best adapted to the standard of the teams available. In Northern Bosnia, in the Banjaluka and Tuzla regions, heavier ploughs with more than one share are, however, in favour. In mountainous districts "turning ploughs" ("Wendepflug") have recently been introduced. Machine sowers, reapers and binders, and threshers are used in the country bordering the Save, mainly by German colonists. Hand-operated maize-cleaning mills, threshers, straw-choppers, and vine-presses are in general use.

It is estimated that the annual demand for the items of agricultural machinery most generally used is approximately as follows:—Hand-mills for cleaning maize, 1,000-2,000; hand-mills for chopping straw, 500; fruit-presses, 200-300; threshers (mainly hand-operated machines and a few for horses), 10-150; reaping machines, 50; flour hand-mills, 20; steam-driven threshers, 10.

Bosnia and Herzegovina are rich in minerals, especially coal and lignite, iron ore, manganese ore, chrome, copper, sulphuric iron ores, aluminium, lead, and zinc. Exploitation has hitherto been more particularly active in the case of coal and iron, the output of which is an important factor in the balance of the foreign trade of the region.

Traffic on the Bosnian railways is hampered by a shortage of rolling-stock; by the defective harbour equipment and storage accommodation, inherited by Yugoslavia, of the three southern Dalmatian ports of Gruz (Gravosa), Metkovic, and Zelenica, where collectively, in 1922 and 1923, 29,000 and 35,000 wagon loads of merchandise respectively were handled, as compared with 29,700 in 1909; and by chronic congestion at Brod-on-the-Save, which is at present the only junction connecting the narrow gauge system of Bosnia-Herzegovina with the Belgrade-Zagreb normal gauge line. The number of truckloads of merchandise transferred from the one gauge to the other at Brod has greatly increased since the war, amounting to 69,200 in 1922 and 97,100 in 1923, as compared with 40,000 in 1909, the last pre-war year for which data have been received.

With a view to relieving this state of things, the Sarajevo Chamber of Commerce recently advocated the construction of a new port capable of accommodating steamers of 8,000 tons draught at Ploce (Tolero), to be connected by a new line with Metkovic, which, lying as it does in shallow reaches some 20 kilometres above the estuary of the Neretva river, is kept open, even to coasting craft, only by dint of costly dredging, and is inadequate for Bosnian exports of timber and iron ore. It is claimed for this scheme that it would substantially reduce freights between the southern Dalmatian littoral and the middle Save, Ploce being 85 kilometres by rail nearer than Gravosa to Sarajevo, whilst the run, not beset by the same forbidding gradients, would involve less wear and tear of rolling stock.

Other recommendations made by the Chamber of Commerce included the elimination of the rack-and-pinion railway over Mt. Ivan (between Sarajevo and Mostar), which, in 1922 and 1923, was used by 36,700 and 48,100 trucks respectively, as compared with 37,000 in 1909, and the construction of the Tuzla-Sabac and Pribinic-Maslovare sections.

Small British Trade.

British participation in the import trade, always very limited, has been severely tried by the competition of countries less heavily handicapped by the cost of production and the exchange. In the import of cotton and woollen goods the most striking feature has been the hold on the market secured by Italian and Czecho-Slovakian manufacturers, who treat directly with customers, waive practically all packing charges, and give 60 to 120 days' credit or 3 per cent. discount for cash, constantly maintaining personal touch with clients by means of commercial travellers and displaying great adaptability to local requirements. The cotton and woollen goods now on sale are, with few exceptions, of a quality patently "dear at any price," and discriminating buyers will certainly eschew them when British products are able to take their place normally in the market. Cotton trouserings from Poland and cotton yarns from Greece have appeared, it is believed, for the first time.

In 1923 British imports included 200 tons of tin, tinned sheet-iron, tin-plate, copper-plate, and brass-plate; and in 1922-1923 some 90 tons of cotton and woollen yarns and piece-goods. These figures refer, however, only to direct imports, and do not take into account consignments of British origin bought of wholesalers in Belgrade and Zagreb.

The encouraging results obtained recently in Sarajevo by a commercial traveller representing a British soap and perfumery firm suggest that home manufacturers might well resort more frequently to this method of securing orders.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Further Decline in Futures.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended August 28 state :— Since our last report the market has been rather nervous. The net changes on the week are :— Sakellaridis : $3.15 down for November, $2.85 down for January, $3.03 down for March ; Ashmouni : $1.13 down for October, $1.12 down for December, $1.38 down for February.

The feature of the week has been the reversal of ideas as to the prospective supply of Sakel for the coming season. On Tuesday the Government issued its report on the acreage ; the total shown as planted is 1,787,843 feddans, and the proportions of the various varieties :—Sakellarides, 48.8 per cent. ; Ashmouni and Zagora, 44.6 per cent. ; Pilion, 2.8 per cent. ; Brown, 1.2 per cent. ; Sundries, 2.6 per cent. The proportion of Sakel was a good deal higher than speculators anticipated, and they at once started to get rid of some of the long position which they have for some time past been accumulating, with the result that the difference between Sakel November and Ashmouni October has narrowed to 982 points, against about 1,200 points a week ago. Nobody takes the Government's total figures seriously, and the general opinion is that the true acreage is near the two million mark. It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, for an individual to determine accurately the proportion of varieties planted ; we have gone as exhaustively into the matter as anybody, and maintain our estimate of May 1 last of 30 to 40 per cent. of cotton other than Sakel planted in the Delta, on which figure the acreage under Sakel works out very close to the proportion of the whole as estimated by the Government. The volume of business during the week has been fairly large, and with the selling out by speculators the supply of November contracts is considerably increased and dealings accordingly are easier. There has been a good deal of inquiry from consuming markets, but the actual business concluded has not been in proportion to the inquiry, spinners apparently looking for lower prices. The week's receipts amount to 43,451 kantars, against exports 37,977 kantars : the stock stands at 285,803 kantars.

Spot.—Total sales this week amount to about 4,400 bales, of which we estimate 900 bales Sakel and 3,500 bales Uppers.

Sakellaridis.—All grades from Fully Fair to Fully Good Fair to Good have been in demand, but, except for the low grades, so little cotton remains that business is extremely difficult. The price of spot as compared with contracts for cotton below Fully Good Fair is, if anything, rather easier ; for the better grades, however, the premiums have been maintained.

Uppers.—New crop arrivals now average something over 1,000 bales a day, and most of this cotton has changed hands. Sellers appear rather anxious to get rid of their cotton, and premiums have consequently dropped slightly. With regard to old crop, very little business has been done : there has been a small demand for Fully Fair and Good Fair, but the price of spot as compared with contracts for these grades is slightly easier.

Crop 1924.—Crop news is without much change. Both crops are progressing normally, but our private information confirms that the yield of some districts in Upper Egypt is likely to be affected by the somewhat heavier pink boll worm attack mentioned in last week's report.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Reduced Activity.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended September 6 states :—

The increased activity referred to in our last two reports has given place to a quieter condition of affairs during the past week, and the turnover has shown a considerable reduction. This is thought to be partly due to a desire to await the American Bureau report, which is due on Monday next, and partly to the belief that we shall see lower quotations later on for both American and Egyptian cotton, with a consequent fall in the prices demanded for both yarn and cloth. In the meanwhile, however, spinners have maintained their firm attitude, and are not disposed to give away much of the advantage which lower quotations for the raw staple have already given them.

Yarn.—Prices show no reduction on those prevailing a week ago. The stoppage of work for the annual holidays in Oldham, the principal producing centre, has reduced stocks in hand, and in some special varieties of yarn there is an actual shortage, of which spinners feel they are entitled to take advantage after the thin time they have experienced for so long past. Although the demand from overseas markets has not been negligible, there are no special features to report apart perhaps from the steady demand from the Near East for the special varieties of yarn in favour in those markets.

Cloth.—There has been a distinct pause in buying activity, which, as mentioned above, is probably due to the anticipation that the official Bureau report regarding American cotton may lead to lower quotations for the raw material, with a consequent reduction in the price of finished goods. India has again placed the biggest volume of actual business, though less than was hoped for, and the United States has been prominent with orders for some of the finer qualities. Nervousness is felt regarding the position in China, and the stoppage of the weekly Shanghai auctions is a very discouraging feature. Egypt and the Levant generally have done less business than of late, and home trade transactions have been restricted to the buying of stock lots for immediate delivery.

Raw Cotton.—In a general atmosphere of reduced activity prices have again shown a tendency to droop, without, however, any drastic changes on the week. Buyers complain that the residue of old crop American cotton lying in Liverpool is of poor quality, and for special grades quite substantial premiums have to be paid on nominal quotations. There has been some disposition during the week to modify the estimates regarding the size of the new Egyptian crop, though confidence is felt that it will still be a substantial one. Incidentally, the stock of cotton lying in Alexandria is reported to be less than a quarter of the amount at this time last year. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows :—American Middling 15.16, Egyptian Fully Good Fair 24.90.

The following is taken from the report for the week ended August 30 :—

The cheerful atmosphere previously reported has continued during the past week, though probably less actual business has been done. Constant talk about lower-priced cotton can hardly fail to make buyers both at home and abroad feel inclined to refrain from committing themselves too far in

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their purchases. According to the latest report of the United States Agricultural Bureau, the American crop is expected to approximate to 13,000,000 bales, which, if realised, will certainly dispel the bogey of anything approaching a cotton famine, quite freely talked about not so long ago.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Steadier Markets.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended September 3 :—

Egyptian Spot.—Steadier markets have been the rule during the past week, although the tendency has continued on the down grade. Belief in lower prices still prevails, and it is only the scarcity of cotton at the mills, and the consequent "bridging over" that has to be done by spinners, that has accounted for the comparatively good business which has taken place. The drop from August into the price of the September contract has had the effect of further weakening the basis for all classes of Egyptian cotton, but particularly has this been noticeable in the case of Uppers. The reported improvement in the staple of this year's American crop, coupled with the rumour that certain mills which have latterly been spinning Egyptian Uppers are already reverting to American cotton, has caused something in the nature of a panic amongst holders of Upper cotton in this market, and the basis has broken so badly that many would-be sellers appear quite at a loss as to what to ask for their cotton. Fully Good Fair Upper is officially quoted to-day at 21.05d., but it is doubtful if 2.00d. per lb. less could be obtained actually on the spot here. Alexandria appears to be in much the same state for old crop cotton, and sellers of new crop are becoming easier to deal with every day.

A certain amount of re-selling on spinners' account has been noticeable, both here and in Manchester, during the week. Presumably this comes from those mills which are being put back into American cotton. Needless to say, the appearance of this cotton at the present juncture has had a pronounced sentimental effect on prices here, even though the quantities offered have been small and the prices asked (in many cases) considerably higher than those already ruling. Spinners have continued to weed out the better lots of Sakel from the poor selection remaining, and a fair business has been done. To-day, a line of some 1,200 bales is reported to have changed hands for delivery next month; up to 24.00d. was paid. Inquiry for Sudan cotton has continued good, the Sakel cotton changing hands at from 23.50d. to 25.50d. per lb. White Sudan has been more freely asked for at from pass price American contracts to about 450 on; the selection, however, is poor. Other growths have been neglected. C.i.f. business showed some improvement at the beginning of the week, but has become rather quiet latterly. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 29th ult. were returned as 7,901 bales. Estimated sales 2,800 bales Egyptians and about 1,250 bales. Sudan. Quotations for Sakellaridis are reduced 40 points, whilst those of Upper and Brown are 100 to 125 points lower on the week. F.G.F. to-day, 24.90d.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SAILINGS TO THE NEAR EAST.

The London office of the Italian State Railways and Steamship Lines announces that during September and October a service of special fast sailings will operate from Trieste to Piræus and Constantinople which will accomplish the journey in quicker time than the Simplon-Orient Express; moreover, the inconvenience of passing the various Balkan frontiers will thus be avoided.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Valacia for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 13).

Anchor Line.—S.s. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 25).

British India Line.—S.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 12); s.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 13).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan MacBride for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, September 17).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Exeter for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 15).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Mardinian for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (London, September 20).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 20); s.s. Tramore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 18).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London, September 19); s.s. Narkunda for Bombay (London, October 3); s.s. Khyber for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 4).

Sir John Ferguson, of Lloyds Bank, has been elected Deputy-Chairman of the Council of the Institute of Bankers for the coming year.

The Government of Turkey has announced irrigation projects for the Meander Valley, the Adana Plain, and the Sousirlik and Broussa areas. The Minister of Agriculture has stated that he is in a position to discuss details of these projects with foreign construction companies with a view to granting concessions, says an American Consular report.

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Stock and Share Markets.

QUIET AND STEADY TONE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

On the whole the markets closed last night on a fairly steady tone, though in a few directions a little irregularity was in evidence. Judging by the course of prices since the Reparations settlement, it cannot be said that the fears expressed so freely in some quarters have had any repercussion on the Stock Exchange. On the contrary, the future is looked forward to, if not with optimism, at any rate without undue apprehension. After all the changes and chances since the late summer of 1914, the Exchange prefers not to cry "wolf" without very evident grounds. It is felt, indeed, that the doctrine of pessimism can safely be left in the keeping of Fleet Street, which, as in the past, is sure to be fully equal to all the demands made upon it in this direction.

Seriously, however, the danger of German competition, it is thought, may be rather discounted, for the time being at any rate, since the revival of commerce should mean trade for all at first, and the effect of that will be an advance of prices in a number of groups, notably Industrials and those that come under the commodity heading. Industrials, as a matter of fact, were among the first of the markets to firm up, and I shall expect to see Rubbers follow suit, while Tea shares, which have already enjoyed so substantial a rise, may be expected to go much higher once Europe is again absorbing its usual supplies.

Gilt-Edged Steady.

Gilt-edged securities have made a fairly firm showing. Consols are 57⅛, the Conversion Loan is 77½, War Loan Fives are 101 11-16, while Fundings are 90⅛. Indian stocks have been dull, and yesterday there was a slight decline in nearly all cases. The Three per Cents. shed ¼ at 55¼, the Three and a-Half per Cents. lost a similar amount at 65¼, while the Seven per Cents. at 109 are ½ down.

Foreign Stocks Firm.

There has not been so much activity in the Foreign market of late, but yesterday a fair amount of business was done. French stocks were steady, with the War Loan Five per Cents. at 24½ and the Four per Cents. at 19¾. German stocks have made an irregular showing during the week, and yesterday fell away somewhat. The Three per Cents. at 40s. shed 3s. 3d., the Three and a-Half per Cents. were 1s. 6d. lower at 34s., while the Four per Cents. at 34s. also showed a similar decline. Italian Rentes are steady at 20½. In Near Eastern securities Egyptian Unified have been rather weak, closing at 74¾, a decline on the day of ¾. Greek bonds have been very firm, with Monopolies a point up at 48½. Chinese stocks have fluctuated somewhat on the political situation, but yesterday there was a general recovery.

Industrials Rather Featureless.

A somewhat quiet tone marked the Industrial group yesterday, though there were some strong features, notably Tobaccos. The underlying tone in this section is very good, and it is evident that there should be a general advance in prices as soon as conditions improve.

Tobaccos have been very firm, Bats being 108s. 9d., while Imperial Tobaccos are 28s. 3d. Textiles have been on the dull side. Coats are 60s. 9d., Courtaulds are 52s. 6d., while English Sewing Cottons are 56s. Iron and Steel shares have been rather quiet. Armstrongs are 14s. 3d., Guest Keens are 34s. 6d., while Vickers are 8s. 9d.

Shipping securities have been steady. P. and O. Deferred are 300, Cunards are 18s. 4½d., Furness Withys are 32s. 9d., while Khedivial Mails are 1 11-16.

Banks Quiet.

Banking descriptions have been rather quiet. Westminsters are 17 3-16, Lloyds are 59s. 3d., P. and O. Banks are 10⅞, National of India are 4¼, Chartered of India are 20, while British Trade Corporations are 2¼.

Oils Dull.

There has been very little activity in the Oil market, and a rather dull tone has developed. Anglo-Persian Ordinary are 2¾, Burmahs are 4 15-16, while Lobitos are 10⅜. In the Roumanian group Phœnix are 22s. 3d., Steaua Romanas are 8s. 6d., while Hamilton's Concessions are 1s. 6d. Among Egyptians Anglo-Egyptian B are 1 1-32.

Egyptians Steady.

Egyptian securities have made a fairly steady showing. Aboukirs are 18s. 3d., Beheras are 10¾, Egyptian Markets are 24s. 6d., Gharbieh Lands are 1⅜, New Egyptians are 26s. 6d., and Union Foncieres are 2½.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅝-97 $^{9}/_{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	247-248
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	338-342
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	23.64-23.66
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 $^{13}/_{32}$-1.5 $^{7}/_{16}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	89¾-90
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	845-850
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	340-350,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 $^{13}/_{32}$-1.5 $^{7}/_{16}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	810-825
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.42 $^{5}/_{8}$-4.42 $^{3}/_{4}$
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	84.70-84.75
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	148½-149
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	101 $^{5}/_{8}$-101 $^{7}/_{8}$
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	605-628
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	315-318.00
Warsaw	Zloty to £	—	23.10-23.20

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THE DYESTUFFS SITUATION IN GREECE.

The importation of dyestuffs into Greece has varied considerably in recent years, reaching 245 tons in 1920, dropping to 149 tons in 1921, increasing to 181 tons in 1922, and falling to 119 tons in 1923. These fluctuations are attributed to the fact that during the War, when even the immediate requirements were difficult to obtain, the usual stock carried became practically exhausted (says an American Consular Report).

In 1920, when the favourable exchange value of the drachma gave an additional impetus to foreign purchases, an effort was made to replenish stocks. The rising foreign exchange in 1921 put a stop to this tendency, and, on the other hand, stimulated to a large extent the domestic production of textiles, so that in 1922 the importation of dyestuffs reached a greatly increased figure. This latter year, therefore, might be taken as a fairly correct gauge of the importance of this market for foreign dyestuffs, while the year 1923 was abnormal for the textile industry, which, owing to the heavy fluctuations of exchange, worked for a considerable period on part time.

About sixty tons of dyestuffs, delivered by Germany on reparation account according to the Treaty of Versailles, are still held for disposal by the Greek Government. Sooner or later this quantity will be taken up by the local consuming industry, and during the next 12 months at least will offset any increase in the consumption of dyestuffs resulting from the newly-established and growing Oriental carpet industry in Greece.

The only important Greek dyestuff works are the Manufactures de Matieres Colorantes du Piree, S.A. Oeconomides, Piraeus, which started manufacturing in 1899, and gradually increased its production to 107 tons of complete dyestuffs in 1922. In 1923, owing to the crisis in the textile industry, it produced only 63 tons.

The foremost consumer is the cotton-textile industry, whose staple products are cheap ginghams, oxfords, or vichys, for the working and peasant classes, besides a line of medium-priced dress goods for men and women. Except a small proportion of plain clothes, all the cotton dyeing is done in the yarn, and the daily consumption of dyes in the eight more important dyeworks is estimated as 200 kilos of sulphur dyes, 70 kilos of direct dyes, and a small quantity, perhaps 1 per cent., of vat dyes. Sulphur dyes are largely used for producing blacks and some blues, and direct dyes for other colours. Vat dyes are obtained from Germany and Switzerland, and the other groups are furnished in about equal quantities by foreign and local dyestuff works.

The so-called "Congo red," formerly received in small quantities from the United States, is now made by the local industry. Alizarine red, with other alizarine colours, is finding a growing outlet in the newly established Greek Oriental carpet industry. Indigo for cotton dyeing has been replaced largely by the so-called "Hydron blue," imported from Germany. The total production of the woollen industry is given as 1,000,000 yards of cloth per year, and there are six moderately sized mills in this district producing mostly blankets and a line of coarse woollen cloth and very few styles of a better class. Campeachy logwood is used in the silk-dying industry, besides the usual direct dyes. The few smaller and two larger silk factories have a yearly output of 14,000 kilos of silk cloth.

The paper industry is represented by two factories not having an important use of dyestuffs. The upper leather industry is small and uses some aniline colours, mostly black, brown, and red, all of which are imported from Germany. The shoe polish made locally is of a very low quality, for which the dyestuffs are obtained entirely from the Greek dyestuff factory.

The Greek import business in aniline as well as alizarine dyes is monopolised practically by the four largest German dye manufacturers. They maintain local depots from which the immediate requirements are satisfied. The larger users, however, order direct from the factory, thereby hoping to insure a fresher supply. Besides, they are adverse to making yearly contracts and generally purchase their immediate requirements, as the competition among the agents of the German manufacturers is keen, although they are supposed to have uniform Cartel prices. Their products are so well known that no advertising is done. Against their competition the various Swiss, Netherlands, and French manufacturers only do a small business in specialties.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Telephones.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 500 wall telephones. October 1.

Motor Boats.—Tenders are invited by the Egyptian "Conseil Sanitaire, Maritime et Quarantenaire" at Alexandria for the supply of two motor boats (oil driven) for service in the ports of Alexandria and Suez, and one motor launch to be used in the port and roadstead of Alexandria. The vessels are to be constructed under the supervision of the Bureau Veritas or Lloyd's. Quotations are to be in Egyptian £'s for vessels delivered c.i.f. Alexandria. October 15. (D.O.T.)

Tu key.

Wire.—The Direction Générale, des Postes et Télégraphes, Stamboul, invites tenders for the supply of 25 tons of galvanised wire. (D.O.T.)

Voltmeters.—The Direction de l'Intendance de la Direction Générale de la Postes et Télégraphes invites tenders for the supply of 100 large and 500 small voltmeters. The first adjudication takes place on November 4 next, and the final adjudication on November 17. (D.O.T.)

Czecho-Slovakia.

Locomotives, etc.—A new scheme is being undertaken by the Czecho-Slovak Government for the electrification of the State Railways, and tenders are invited by the Czecho-Slovak Ministry of Railways for locomotives and materials in connection with the project. October 21. (D.O.T.)

India.

Wagons.—The South Indian Railway Co. invite tenders for the supply of 109 wagons. October 10.

Dredgers.—The India Store Department invite tenders for the supply of two self-propelling suction dredgers, with radial heads and pumps having 20 in. suction and delivery, also floating discharge pipes, terminal pontoons, anchor lifting pontoons, and floating high-pressure hydraulic pumping plants.

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The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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In Egypt the Bank's principal office is at Alexandria; but it also has agencies throughout the cotton-growing districts, and specialises in all operations connected with the moving of the cotton crop.

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No. 697—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Wahhabis on the Warpath.

The capture of Taif by the followers of Sultan Ibn Saud of Nejd may well be the forerunner of striking developments in the Arabian Peninsula. When a few weeks ago a Wahhabi detachment appeared in the neighbourhood of Amman and was easily dispersed by aeroplanes and armoured cars there was nothing to show that the incident had anything to do with one of those periodical movements which have characterised Wahhabi history. Ibn Saud was understood to be, or to have been until recently, in favour of keeping his followers within bounds, and he dissociated himself from the raids that the Akhwan made into Iraq two or more years ago. He posed as being anxious to consolidate his kingdom, and to this end desired to have the frontiers of Nejd clearly defined. It is possible, however, that the assumption of the Khalifate by King Hussein has stirred afresh his enmity or that of his people against the Hejaz. Certainly the appearance of a body of Wahhabis in sufficient strength to occupy Taif and threaten Mecca suggests something more than the restlessness of a border tribe. Taif lies seventy-five miles south-east of Mecca; it is the summer residence of King Hussein, and, more important still, is Mecca's main or only source of supply for fruit and vegetables. Its distance from Riyadh, the capital of Nejd, is about four hundred and fifty miles, while Amman lies rather less than half that distance from Jauf, the chief town in the north-west of Ibn Saud's territory. The closeness with which the capture of Taif has followed upon the attack on Transjordan points to a concerted movement although it is difficult to understand Ibn Saud's motives in countenancing hostilities against territory which comes under a British mandate.

The Weakness of the Hejaz.

The ease with which Taif fell to the invading force does not speak well for the military strength of the Hejaz or for the organisation of its defence. A ruler who claims the headship of the Arab world, who is prepared to quarrel with Egypt and tries to interfere in Palestine should be more sure of the situation at home. Unless the Hejazi army is at once able to reoccupy Taif and to dispose of the invaders, some credence is likely to be given to the reports of the insecurity of King Hussein's position. It would have been expected that all the tribes owing him allegiance would have rallied immediately to the defence of the country and given short shrift to the "heretic" Wahhabis. Instead we have an admission of defeat and a pathetic appeal from Mecca to "the civilised world" complaining of "atrocities" accompanying the occupation of the town. Where Great Britain has definite obligations to Arabs, as in the case of Transjordan and Iraq, she has shown her readiness to defend those under her charge, and it is unlikely that the Wahhabis will be tempted to face a further advance on Amman. The situation in regard to the Hejaz is different. King Hussein has deliberately rejected all attempts on the part of the British Government to negotiate a treaty with him, and, consequently, has no claim for assistance in the defence of his country. The immediate outcry against excesses at Taif suggests an attempt to prejudice British opinion against the Wahhabis with a view to securing the support that has been so effective in Iraq and Transjordan. Great Britain, however, is under no illusions as to the manner in which desert warfare is conducted, and has no authority to require Ibn Saud's followers to conform with codes that have never been applied by the Arabs amongst themselves. On the other hand, there is no reason to suppose that Wahhabi rule in Mecca would be more effete than that of King Hussein, which has failed to take advantage of its opportunities and has gone out of its way to estrange the friendship of a country which has done so much for the Arabs in general, and far the Hashimite House in particular.

The Anglo-Egyptian Meeting.

Zaghloul Pasha is due to arrive in London on September 23, and his meeting with Mr. Ramsay MacDonald is to take place the same week. The discussion will be of a strictly preliminary character. The Egyptian Prime Minister is to find out whether there is any chance of Egypt's claims being met. So far no attempt has been made to explore any of the four reserved subjects, with the sole exception of the Sudan. In regard to that point it is obvious that what have been stated to be Egypt's ambitions have no likelihood

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of being granted. On the other hand, an exchange of views between the Egyptian and British Prime Ministers can hardly fail to enlighten the former; it may show him that there are more sides to the Sudan question that he has discovered, and it may give him entirely new ideas regarding the value of an agreement with Great Britain which would accord to Egypt perhaps three-fourths of what she wants, and remove misgivings on the remaining quarter. Even in this event, unfortunately, there is no guarantee that Zaghloul Pasha would return to Egypt and attempt to win his country over to his own way of thinking. He has never shown any inclination to stand up to public opinion and to seek to mould it to his will. It is far more probable that he will adopt the attitude of the most insignificant of his extremist followers, will declare his inability to accept any terms that do not grant the whole of the Egyptian demands, and will return to Egypt to win the plaudits of the unthinking section of his countrymen for the splendid way in which he has defied "British tyranny."

Croats and Serbs.

The letter that we publish this week from our Liubliana correspondent gives an illuminating account of the present situation in Yugoslavia. Written before the meeting of the Croatian Peasant Party, it sets out at length the dilemma in which M. Raditch found himself. The meeting has now been held, and the Croatian leader has definitely identified himself with the Government of M. Davidovitch, which he declares himself willing to enter. Any other course would have completely stultified him, not only in the eyes of the Yugoslav people, but also abroad. The world is getting tired of leaders who show no constructive ability and have not sufficient sense to realise that the surest way of reaching any goal is to take one step after another in the given direction, and not to sit down doing nothing, in the expectation that some contrivance will make its appearance to enable one to reach the goal in a single jump. By entering the Davidovitch Government and loyally co-operating with it in administering the country on sound efficient lines the leaders of the Croatian Peasant Party will gain a much clearer insight into the needs of Yugoslavia as a whole, and will be able to bring their policy more closely into line with Croatia's real interests. M. Raditch has declared that his party remains Republican; but as the Monarchy is still a factor to be reckoned with, he is willing to enter a Monarchist Government. This is a perfectly reasonable attitude, but honour demands that, while he identifies himself with the Monarchy, he should accept it and refrain from any steps that could be interpreted as an attempt to undermine it.

The Death of Todor Alexandroff.

The murder of Todor Alexandroff, the chief leader of the Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation, will probably be found to be a blow to the cause of an early peaceful solution of the Macedonian question. It is true that he was himself a man of blood, and that M. Pashitch's Government had adopted the attitude that it could have no truck with a man who had so many murders on his hands, but the excuse was not one that carries much weight in the Balkans. Alexandroff was inclined to make a stand against Bolshevist propaganda in the Balkans, and had set his face against using Communist support for the Macedonian movement. If it had been possible in Yugoslavia to take advantage of this attitude peace might have been secured at an earlier date in the Peninsula. If it is true that Alexandroff has fallen a victim to Bolshevist hostility, his death will be a gain to the Communist element in the Macedonian Organisation. It is not in the interest of any Balkan State to have Communism encouraged in its midst, and rather than allow the Macedonians to become identified with Moscow, it would be wiser on the part of the Belgrade Government to try to come to terms betimes with the saner element in the Organisation. Alexandroff's successor will presumably be General Protoguéroff, who has already identified himself with Alexandroff's anti-Communist attitude.

Indiscipline in Greece.

In most countries the Government's sins of omission or commission are the subject of denunciation on political platforms or in the Press, and an attempt is made to force the authorities to the required line of action by the pressure of public opinion. In Greece the method of procedure that has found most support in recent years in dealing with official shortcomings is for the Army or Navy to start a revolution. It must be regarded, therefore, as a favourable symptom that the latest military revolt appears to have enlisted the support of only two generals and eight subordinate officers, of whom five thought better of their action before the plot was discovered. This fiasco seems to imply that even the Army is getting tired of militarist interference with politics; the civilian population, since the execution of six ex-Ministers, has not counted for much in Greece. The trouble, without doubt, will gradually right itself; but the return to more normal conditions would be expedited if the civilian politicians could sink their differences and work together, without thought of party, for the good of the State. The people grow tired of Ministry after Ministry failing to effect any improvement in the country's affairs, and the hotheads turn instinctively to the revolution idea, in the hope of proving themselves a second Venizelos.

Sofia's Memorial Cathedral.

A delay of eleven years in the consecration of a completed church is an apt commentary on the chequered history of Bulgaria. The Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, which was consecrated only last week, has long been Sofia's most notable building, and its golden dome the most conspicuous landmark for great distances around the capital. Yet the first stone was laid forty-five years ago. In those days it was intended to be a memorial church in honour of the Tsar Alexander II., the "Liberator" of Bulgaria; but the building was interrupted when the enthusiasm for Russia lapsed under Stambuloff, and it was not until 1894 that the work was continued. The Cathedral was completed in 1913. The second Balkan war, however, interfered with its consecration, and a year later came the great European struggle. As a requital for the bombardment of Bulgarian territory by Russian men-of-war, King Ferdinand resolved that the name of the church should be changed, and that it should be dedicated to Saints Cyril and Methodius, the patron saints of Bulgaria, to whom the country is indebted for its alphabet. Stamboulisky changed the name back to Alexander Nevsky, and in that name it has now been consecrated.

The Revolt in Georgia.

There has probably been no more cynical exhibition of the Bolshevist attitude than that provided by the history of Georgia in recent years. In common with other countries that were supposed to be held down against their will by the Tsarist régime, the Transcaucasian States were to recover their independence under the Soviet millennium. In May, 1920, a Treaty was signed between the Moscow Government and the Georgian Republic, by which the independence of the latter was recognised and the Soviet undertook to abstain from interference in the internal affairs of the country. The Treaty merely provided the means for Com-

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munist intrigue, and when this was not as successful as was anticipated, Soviet armies invaded Georgia and established a Russian occupation. After one abortive rising, the Georgians have now made a further desperate—and this time more comprehensive—effort to free themselves from the Soviet yoke. From the scanty information received it is not easy to tell with any degree of certainty how the revolt is progressing. The Soviet claim that it had been summarily suppressed is proved to be false, although it is probable that Georgian hostages have been seized wherever possible and executed. The Red armies, known to be worthless for serious military operations, ought to be able, by sheer force of numbers, to quell the Georgians in course of time, but for the moment it looks as if the suddenness of the rising had taken Moscow unawares, and the Reds are left with only a precarious hold on Batoum.

The Indian Services.

As everybody expected, the Indian Legislative Assembly has refused to have anything to do with the recommendations of the Lee Commission regarding the composition and remuneration of the public services. The vote may fairly be described as academic, since the effective decision rests with the India Office, and not with the Assembly, and it should be read as the expression of sentiment rather than responsibility. It need not hamper the Secretary of State, though presumably there will be difficulties at Budget time if he decides to put the Commission's recommendations into force, and, even as an expression of sentiment, its importance may easily be overrated. It will, of course, strengthen the position of the Service Associations, which have appealed for the protection of Parliament against the spite of politicians, and to some extent it may operate to discourage recruitment in this country; in Indian political circles we suspect the prevailing feeling will be one of relief, following on the discharge of a secretion which was interfering with the normal activity of the organism.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Clyde Rent Strike.

It is now many weeks since I referred to the strike of the tenants of certain Clydeside tenements, who have availed themselves of the muddling Housing Acts to avoid all payments of rent. The matter had reached the acutest stage, for cycle scouts and handbell ringers were urging the lions of Clydebank to resist policemen and, in fact, to use violence towards them. At the eleventh hour a conference held at Glasgow agreed to a fortnight's truce in the dispute.

During this week over a hundred ejection orders were to have been enforced. This will not be done; tenants in a position to pay rent will be asked by Mr. Kirkwood, M.P., to do so; others will be requested to come to terms with their factors. It would seem that the Government has really shirked the problem—not only this Government, but three Governments. The Scottish Labour members appointed last month to report on the position urged the setting up of a special rents tribunal, which should consider all cases of arrears and assess ability to pay. It was in such arbitration that the last hope of a peaceful settlement in what is perhaps the most dangerous quarter of Great Britain lay, and late in the day justice has entered upon the scene.

Class Politics.

The movement of the more prominent Labour M.P.'s to saner ways of thinking grows with gratifying rapidity. Much attention, for example, has been given to the preface which the Premier has recently written for an old book of his on Socialism, in which he states a certain disapproval of such methods as doles, Poplarism, limitation of output, unreasoning strikes, and so on. This confession has been hugged to the bosom by our capitalists, who think that a split in the Labour Party is now certain. They say that no extremist will stand these wise words of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, and that class politics are becoming less and less of a nightmare. The Prime Minister, they are so pleased to think, is really an evolutionist, not a revolutionist, and round the evolutionaries they can always find a way. The stars are fighting for them once again in their courses, and all may yet be well with the country.

And even Mr. Newbould, the only Communist in the late Parliament, has confessed that revolution is impossible for the present in this country. He has retired from the Communist Party, and although he still talks hectically about the necessity of keeping Soviet Russia as a revolutionary arsenal for Europe, his steps in the way that he should go are patently being more decisively trodden. We may yet see Mr. Newbould as a Cabinet Minister.

Ireland.

It is now being taken for granted that Parliament will have to re-assemble at the end of this month to pass the one-clause amending Bill which will provide for the appointment of a representative on the Commission by the British Government. Meanwhile, things are fairly calm. It is expected that the Ulster Cabinet, which meets to-day, will endorse Sir James Craig's refusal to appoint a Boundary Commissioner, but in spite of that it is anticipated that matters will take their course.

In connection with the function of the Boundary Commission, about which Ulster and the Free State hold contradictory views, Lord Birkenhead and Mr. Lloyd George, who were both signatories to the Irish Treaty, have stated their opinion that it is limited to defining a boundary. If this be all that the Commission means, it would appear strange if Ulster were to attempt to derail it and so cause disorder in all the border districts. The outlook is still far from hopeful.

The Loan to Russia.

Of the Russian Treaty there has in the past few days been much talk about it and about; Sir Walter Runciman's letters to Mr. E. D. Morel and Mr. Morel's letters to Sir Walter on the subject have occupied much of the space in the Press; and Mr. Lloyd George has said that if the Labour

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Party go to the country over the issue they are courting disaster. None of this perhaps matters very much. What is more important, the attitude of the City, is not so definitely known at present, though it is vaguely being assumed that it is extremely hostile.

Without professing to have gone deeply into the matter, one cannot see that the opposition to the Treaty amounts to much. The Runciman-Morel correspondence proved little except that agreement was reached in a thoroughly unsatisfactory manner —a nasty fact, which calls to mind the Agreement with Ireland, but not wholly damning; and of Mr. Lloyd George—well, he has hardly been accounted an authority on Russian affairs after his "bulging cornbins" speech. Those who are supporting in a moderate fashion the Premier's resolve to resume national relations with Russia are suggesting that the conditions on which Parliament is to be asked to sanction the proposed loan to Russia should be published, so that we might all know exactly where we stand. As it is, there is danger that when the much more important (from a domestic point of view) question of Ireland arises the Liberal and Labour parties may find themselves divided.

Fallible Government Departments.

The affair of the Latter-Day Druids, to which I recently referred, has fizzled out, but in that most delightful of all spectacles, the admission by a Government Department that a mistake had been made. In July the First Commissioner of Works proposed to permit the Latter-Day Druids to bury the ashes of one of their members within Stonehenge; in September he states in effect, "Come back all I said." Would that all such permissions be changed so quickly into such refusals! One wonders whether the dashing example of Mr. Jowett will affect Mr. Walsh and the War Office in the still undecided matter of Lulworth Cove.

The Franciscan Friars.

It must have been a wonderful scene and experience last week at Canterbury when hundreds of the Friars of St. Francis, priests, and lay pilgrims assembled to do reverence to the memory of the nine poor Friars who, 700 years ago, sought Canterbury's hospitality, and, in the name of St. Francis, the Saint, who is one of the most popular and loved in our generation.

There was much significance in this gathering, which was brought about as the result of no mere fashionable cult. In a very peculiar and insistent way, the spirit of St. Francis appeals to the men of this age, who, though tired of materialism and luxury, are yet unable to find any spiritual avenue of escape. It is claimed—and it is difficult to resist the claim—that only by a return to the spirit of St. Francis, who preached the doctrine of poverty in that glorious flowering time of the Middle Ages, the Thirteenth Century (possibly the best century yet experienced by the world), can the industrial system which impels and yet enchains the modern world be substituted for something better.

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All this point of view and much besides was explained last week at Canterbury, and the impression created by the pilgrims appears, by all accounts, both public and private, to have been remarkable.

The Cricket Season.

The most disappointing cricket season that one remembers for a long time is now at an end. Not only has the weather been execrable, but disappointment has been felt at the lack of success which attended the South Africans, and at the non-discovery of any new men of note in England. Further, there is scarcely a single amateur, with the exception of A. E. R. Gilligan, who has increased his reputation.

However, it is better to forget these things and to hope for victory in Australia. At the moment interest is being centred on the proposal which Lancashire are bringing forward for an alteration in the system of scoring points next season for the county championship. They propose, and Yorkshire are supporting them, that first innings points shall be abolished, and that only matches played to a finish shall count. This scheme, in view of the fact that the championship is a national competition, and that county teams depend on public support for their existence, has the obvious drawback that the public would not attend if no issue were possible. One proposal that I found popular recently in the North of England is that the team winning on the first innings should have the option of taking three points, as now, or of ignoring the match altogether. But there is no perfect system of scoring in the county championship.

The Discipline of Cricket.

Cricketers, who hold out to others that their sport is, above all other sports, the prince of games, are passing this year through difficult times now, when prominent players appear to be falling over one another to vent their supposed grievances on the Press and the public. There have been far too many unsporting incidents this season not to cause serious disturbance among lovers of the game. Everyone will remember the heinous Parkin affair; but the bowler was a professional, and we, I am afraid, let it go at that. But then came an amateur, Mr. M. D. Lyon, who has played for Cambridge University and for Somerset, with a red-hot public grievance. He sent in his resignation to the M.C.C., published his correspondence, and in general tried to hustle the issue. He should, he thinks, have been chosen to go to Australia.

It is all distressing. There is no question that the ways of the authorities, in all games, are often difficult to follow; no one suggests that the M.C.C. is infallible. But to attempt in this way so to undermine and bring into contempt *the* authority of cricket is sheer Bolshevism, and is quite insupportable. Individualism and personal ambition are fine things, but of the last importance in cricket.

The Revival of the Music Hall.

One always knew that those omniscient young dramatic critics who asserted that the revue had permanently usurped the place of the musical comedy and of the variety turn were wrong, but one has had to wait a long time. Now, however, the tide has definitely turned. Those fine old theatres, the Oxford, the Empire, and the Alhambra, which have been defamed with films, revues, and plays, have all gone back to their first love—variety, so that the world is really getting right again. For so many post-War years the so-respectable Coliseum, the Holborn, and the Victoria Palace have been the only variety theatres in

(*Continued on page* 295.)

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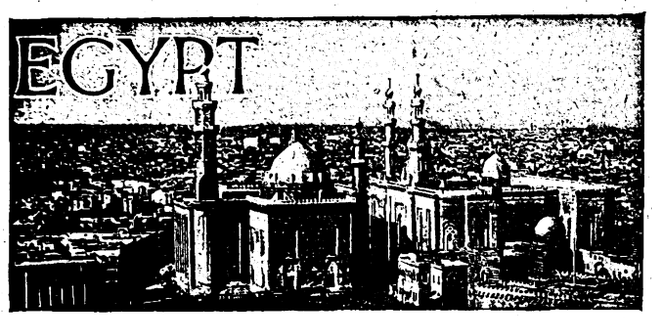
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, September 6.

The Anglo-Egyptian Negotiations.

This has been an eventful week, in a way one of the most eventful that we have had since Parliament rose two months ago. First we had the news that Saad Pasha Zaghloul had cabled to the Cabinet that he intended renouncing negotiations and returning to Egypt on September 17. No reason was given, and we were left completely in the dark until the agencies two days later brought us the summary of the London Press, from which it appeared that there had been a misunderstanding between Zaghloul Pasha and the Foreign Office with regard to the invitation to London.

Three days later we were startled by the interview which it was alleged Mr. Ramsay MacDonald gave the Paris correspondent of one of the London papers, in the course of which he accused members of the Egyptian Government of having been concerned in the troubles in the Sudan, and declared not only that we had made up our minds not to budge over that country, but that there could be absolutely no question of our removing the troops from Egypt or the Suez Canal, and that we had made preparations for all eventualities. It was in every respect a most astounding statement, particularly as up to then there had been no question of the "reserved points" other than the Sudan, and Mr. MacDonald seemed perfectly gratuitously to shut the door to the negotiations which he had so evidently had so much at heart.

Old stagers amongst us waited for confirmation of what we felt sure must be a mistake or a misrepresentation, and we have been well repaid for our caution. Not so the local Press, which, as usual, taking for gospel truth everything that comes from London over the wires, and never stopping to make allowance for telegraphic mutilation or to question the authenticity of the views thus reproduced, rushed wildly into the fray with a furious onslaught on Mr. MacDonald, whom they held solely and entirely responsible for the failure of the attempt to engage negotiations, and who, they said, was worse than Lord Curzon—he has always had a bad Press in Egypt—Lord Milner, or Mr. Lloyd George, since he had deliberately spoilt the chances of a settlement by playing the game of the capitalists.

The interview came as a terrible shock to everyone out here. To those who had been working hard to bring about negotiations it was most disheartening, and to the Egyptian element particularly it was a great blow, since it came from the quarter whence it had been least expected. The relief, when Reuter informed us that Mr. MacDonald had emphatically repudiated the interview, was enormous, and everywhere there were smiles where but a few minutes before there had been stern expressions, showing plainly the extent to which the terms of the interview had depressed and disappointed everyone. What we all now want to know is did Mr. MacDonald ever give an interview at all, and how came it that such a glaringly false version of what he had said was published? I suppose we shall hear in due course the explanation of this extraordinary journalistic blunder.

For the time being, however, that incident is closed, and all attention is directed towards Zaghloul Pasha and the possibility that, as so many think, a way will be found for the much-talked-of meeting between him and Mr. MacDonald. If the sole reason for Zaghloul Pasha's renunciation of negotiations is the absence, according to him, of any definite invitation fixing time and place for the interview with Mr. MacDonald, it should not be difficult to overcome the obstacle, and for a meeting to take place. In fact we may be certain that the misunderstanding in that respect will be removed. If, however, the meeting does not take place and Zaghloul Pasha embarks for Egypt, then we may take it for granted that, as has been rumoured, there are other obstacles, and that the Egyptian Prime Minister has decided that circumstances have become unfavourable even for a personal conversation with Mr. MacDonald. At the present moment an atmosphere of uncertainty as regards the future reigns everywhere, and Egyptian circles are by no means as optimistic as they were a week ago.

The Sudan Riots.

The Egyptian Cabinet having refused to give publicity to the reports of the boards of inquiry appointed by the Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan in connection with the recent incidents in that country—on the ground that it could not take cognisance of any such board that had been appointed without its approval, the Residency this

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week issued a *communiqué* giving the result of the inquiry into the Atbara mutiny. From the *précis* of evidence it is perfectly clear that the mutineers were fired on by Arab troops, who did so spontaneously and without orders, and that British officers had nothing to do with that action, that in fact they had given definite orders that no firing should take place without orders; and the Acting Sirdar, in submitting this report, adds his opinion that the circumstances would have justified an order to fire, and that the Railway battalion, by its disregard for orders and its violent attack on the cordon, was alone to blame for the casualties that occurred.

Jerusalem, August 30.

The Wahhabi Raid.

More detailed and trustworthy information about the Wahhabi raid of August 14 considerably reduces its gravity and the likelihood of immediate repetitions. It would seem that Transjordanian tribes played a very modest part indeed in repelling the attackers, and that it was thanks only to the assistance of the British aeroplanes and armoured cars that the Wahhabis were so effectually and promptly driven off. So that episode may now be considered closed.

Unconfirmed reports are still floating about in the local Arab Press to the effect that this raid is but one of a large number of similar attacks planned by Ibn Saud on his neighbours, but nothing has happened to substantiate these rumours.

Brigandage on the Syrian Frontier.

The statements that the acts of brigandage near Deraa were inspired by certain high officials of the Transjordanian Government turn out to be partially true. These officials were promptly banished from the country as soon as the facts were proved, and no recurrences of brigandage have since been reported. In a speech to his notables a week ago the Emir Abdullah referred to the unpatriotism of those officials who aimed at embroiling him with the two great Powers entrusted with the Arabs' welfare. (Rumours, very widely current, alleging that Ali Rida Pasha er-Rikabi, the Chief Minister of the Emir, connived at the frontier disorders with ulterior motives prove to be baseless; they were probably circulated by the since dismissed officials.) The British forces—the cavalry at Amman and the gendarmerie at Irbid—are, according to the Emir's statements, to be withdrawn to the other side of Jordan as soon as public security is assured.

The Aftermath of Non-Co-operation.

A new Customs Ordinance, gazetted on August 15, raising slightly most of the import dues, is provoking mild resentment. It coincides with a considerable number of dismissals among the junior officials in the Customs Department. The anti-Arab Executive newspapers (i.e., every paper in Palestine except two) are taking this opportunity of girding at the harmful futility of the past policy of the Moslem-Christian Associations in boycotting the elections to the Legislative Council eighteen months ago. The result, they allege, has been to set up a Council comprised solely of British paid officials, with the further result that native officials in the Government are either dismissed or their salaries reduced, while the British high officials, with doors closed against the appeals of the native population and their acts protected from effective criticisms, coolly vote heavy taxation on an already overtaxed people, the better to secure their own bloated salaries. And this is how the *Mirât esh-Sharq* winds up a tirade on the subject: "Was this the end aimed at by the policy of those who call themselves the people's representatives—to leave the Government to do just what it pleased, with none to say it nay? . . . Is anyone pleased with the present condition of things? The Government pours forth laws and ordinances, while the nation remains placid and careless and says nothing. Are the nation's leaders pleased with things as they are? Does the people believe that this Legislative Council, composed of British officials, the heirs in Palestine of Abdul Hamid, has any feeling for the people's sorrow and sickness? And are not these but the beginning of sorrows?" The writer finally apostrophises the Legislative Council: "Go on piling up heavy taxes, for the nation will not stir out of its lethargy till it starves, and starvation will be the beginning of changes and a reversal of the present order; go on publishing your statutes and levying your taxes on the nation's head—till Allah turns and has compassion on us!"

This type of argument need not be taken very seriously; the new Ordinance is only being used as another stick with which to beat the largely discredited Arab Executive policy. The increased Customs dues are, on the whole, perfectly reasonable, and their incidence falls on those best able to bear them. The additional import dues on building materials are most open to criticism, but their possible harm is counterbalanced by the protection they afford to young local industries engaged in the manufacture of building material.

There has been a great outcry against the heavy tax recently imposed on local tobacco, on the grounds that it must cripple a new, very large, and very promising local agricultural development. But the taxation, the Government has been at pains to point out, is so levied as to touch only the consumer, and not the grower, and it will not be high enough to handicap Palestinian tobacco in the competition with imported tobaccos.

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PERSIA.

Teheran, August 27.

Resignation of the Cabinet.

Last Saturday all the members of the Cabinet tendered their resignation to the Prime Minister, Sardar Sepah, who accepted them and is now forming a new Ministry. It is not yet known who the new Ministers will be, and, although it was expected that the Cabinet would be presented to the Mejliss yesterday, this did not take place, and the crowds waiting outside the Parliament House were disappointed. It appears that the Premier was confined to his house suffering from tonsilitis. Rumour had it that the new Government would be almost entirely composed of military, with the exception of the ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Zoka ul Mulk, who will probably retain his portfolio (and there is little doubt that Sardar Sepah would like such a Cabinet); but this appears hardly likely, and the majority of Ministers, from what one can gather, will be mostly civilian. The resignation of the Cabinet was quite unexpected, following as it did almost immediately on the vote of confidence passed on the Government by the Mejliss at the interpellation last Tuesday, though it is supposed that in return for the Parliament's support the Prime Minister undertook to reconstitute the Cabinet. The interpellation itself, at the instance of the Minority Party, fell rather flat. In the morning two of the members of this party were roughly handled by the crowd in the Parliament Square, and the rest of the party, apparently fearing similar treatment, failed to put in an appearance, and when the motion was put to the House the result was a unanimous vote of confidence in the Government, the Opposition being non-existent.

The Murdered American Consul.

Last Sunday week, in the morning, the coffin containing Major Imbrie's body, which had been deposited in the American Church overnight, was taken from there on a motor-hearse to the Drill Square, where, amid a large parade of troops of all classes, the final military honours were rendered to the murdered Consul in the presence of the Cabinet Ministers and all the foreign diplomatic representatives in uniform, and after a salute of eleven guns had been fired the coffin, draped in the Stars and Stripes, was driven through the streets, lined with troops and police, to the Bagh-i-Shah Gate, whence the cortège, consisting of several cars, left for Bushire viâ Baghdad. Major Miles, American Military Attaché at Constantinople, who had been dispatched specially from the latter place, and who happens to have been a great friend of the late Major Imbrie and his widow, accompanies the latter to America, and half a dozen Persian officers were attached as a guard of honour as far as Bushire. The cortège was accorded military honours at all the Persian towns *en route*, and the coffin was met at the railway station at Baghdad by the High Commissioner and the Vice Air-Marshal, and a wreath was placed on it by the American Consul. The remains were embarked on August 25 at Bushire, on board the American cruiser *Trenton*, sent from Naples (probably the first occasion on which an American warship has been seen in Persian waters), with full military honours, the bazaars and European business institutions being closed as a sign of respect. The British gunboat in the Persian Gulf landed twenty bluejackets as a guard of honour. At first their landing was objected to by the local Governor, but representations by the British Chargé d'Affaires here to the Prime Minister produced a telegram which soon removed this obstacle. There was also apparently some reluctance on the part of the Persian officials to salute the American flag, but the salute was ultimately accorded. There now remains only the fixing of the amount to be paid to Mrs. Imbrie as compensation, and the punishment of those responsible for the outrage. The other American, Seymour, who was with Major Imbrie when he was attacked (and who, I hear, will also receive compensation) has recovered sufficiently from his wounds to be removed from hospital, and the authorities are waiting to hear his version of the event before proceeding with the punishment of the persons arrested. I understand, however, that three men have been condemned to death, and an inquiry in the case of many others is proceeding. The American Legation are relentlessly pursuing the matter, as they insist that the utmost penalty shall be paid by all those who had any direct connection with the murder.

The American Advisers.

As I have hinted in previous letters, things are not running very smoothly between Dr. Millspaugh and his staff of advisers and the Persian Government, and relations have recently become very strained. The papers (including the semi-official *Iran*) continue their attacks and criticism, and there has been much talk in the town of the Americans' resignation, which is, however, officially denied. It would indeed be disastrous should the advisers decide to leave the country now, just when the fruits of their labours of the past two years are beginning to be apparent, and it is, therefore, earnestly to be hoped that the present differ-

An Egyptian Night

NIGHT has fallen on Cairo. The streets of the Mousky are crowded—look closely, for the scene carries with it the glamour of the Arabian nights. Above the tric-trac of the dominoes in the cafes will be heard the sound of cymbals where the houris lead the dance—weird Salome dances which hold the senses spellbound. Across the desert, where the Sphinx and the Pyramids keep their eternal watch, silence and the miracle of stars enthral with mystery and imagination.

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EGYPT—THE ETERNAL WONDERLAND

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ences may be quickly settled and a *modus vivendi* arrived at.

The Weather.

The summer has, for a short spell, been unusually hot this year, the temperature having reached over 104 degrees in the shade a few days ago. A violent thunderstorm, accompanied by a heavy downpour of rain for an hour or two, last Sunday night (rather exceptional at this time of the year) seems, however, to have effectually dispelled the heat, and the weather has now become decidedly cooler. Places on the Gulf have, I hear, been experiencing exceptional heat, as much as nearly 130 degrees being registered at Basra.

The total eclipse of the moon last week was clearly visible here, and lasted about three hours. As the moon was at its full and the sky almost cloudless the sight was a most arresting one, and the fact that the moon appeared red caused no small forebodings among the superstitious natives, who foretell much bloodshed in consequence!

YUGOSLAVIA.

Zagreb, September 12.

The Internal Situation.

The Radical party is now beginning to reap the consequences of the mistake committed by it on the occasion of the last meeting of the party's chief Committee, when M. Yovanovitch's proposition was rejected in favour of M. Pashitch's point of view.

M. Davidovitch's Government is holding its own strongly against all attacks, and any eventual success of the Opposition depends no longer upon the latter, but rather upon its arch-opponent, Stjepan Raditch. Should M. Raditch decide upon a fresh *salto mortale*, and again begin to cry out when he isn't hurt, the Opposition will be strengthened and Ljuba Davidovitch's Government endangered. But if Raditch plays his cards well, and, politically speaking, behaves sensibly, contenting himself with what is practical and possible, then the position of the present Government (the former Opposition *bloc*) will be assured, and the Radical Party ousted from its place of predominance.

The fourteenth of this month will decide the issue. That is the day upon which the representative leaders of the Raditch Party are bidden to Zagreb to define their attitude towards current political events. Incidentally, the party leaders will also have to decide in regard to the eventual participation of the Raditch Party in the Government. Originally the Raditch deputies would have nothing to say to any coming into the Government on their part; but now even they are gradually beginning to realise that, in order to be successful, a given policy must be pursued, not without, but within, the ranks of the Government, and that there is not much sense or satisfaction in merely giving their support to the present Government, while declining to exercise direct influence in the affairs of government.

For this reason the Raditch deputies demanded from the Government that a special Minister for Croatia be appointed, with such powers as used to be vested in the so-called *Landmannminister* in the old Austro-Hungarian Empire. This Minister was not to be selected from among the deputies in the Skupshtina, but a non-responsible political man from Zagreb was to be appointed to the post. In this way M. Raditch would seek to secure his line of retreat with his electors. He could always argue that, after all, his party was not in the Government, and that therefore he could not be responsible for the latter's mistakes.

But the Raditch Party would find a Minister for Croatia very useful in other ways besides. How easy it would be to say to the peasant electors: See, the Croatian Republic is on the way towards being realised. Already we have got a Minister of our own who must dance to our tune. Before long we will have several, and the independence of Croatia will become a fact!

In view of this, it is perfectly intelligible that the Government cannot be in favour of the appointment of a special Minister for Croatia, and that it should demand of M. Raditch that he no longer hesitate half-way, but come definitely into the Government. Unquestionably, the Government point of view is correct, because it is inadmissible that persons who are not responsible be appointed Ministers.

M. Raditch and the Government.

We cannot in fairness assume that M. Raditch will not have sufficient insight to realise that the Government is justified in its demand. But there is another snag in the way. The Opposition papers, and especially those of Zagreb—which M. Raditch cannot fail to get a sight of—are explaining at length and in detail that the Government has no other end in view save to compromise M. Raditch. The plan was devised, so they say, by Nastas Petrovitch, Minister for Internal Affairs. Raditch is to come into the Government so that his followers may be compelled to take the Oath on the Constitution and become members of a *Royal* Government. Then Raditch would be classed with "the enemy," and the moment would have come to discredit him with his electors. The procedure is, in fact, to be similar to that followed by the Magyar Ban of Croatia, Tomasitch, many years ago, when he at first won over the two brothers Raditch to his proposition, and then summarily let them fall when they had served his turn, proved themselves supporters of the Hungarian Government, and so compromised themselves. And so it is quite possible that M. Raditch will regard the Government proposal with distrust, and decline to take the decisive step.

It is certain that among the Raditch Deputies there are a good many who would gladly become Ministers of the Crown. On the other hand, it is equally certain that M. Raditch's authority with the mass of his electors is so strong that any opposition to him would entail the loss of his mandate for the Deputy who tried to thwart him.

The Croatian Intelligentsia.

Hence the key of the situation lies for the moment with Stjepan Raditch in Zagreb. Whatever his decision, it will not be an easy one to take, because he himself is in something of a blind alley. It is a fact that the present Government has so far observed a very loyal attitude towards all M. Raditch's demands, and that a new orientation is noticeable in Zagreb. The Croatian intellectuals are satisfied with the Davidovitch Government, and would risk anything sooner than a return of the former Government, with which they would be hopelessly out of favour. Therefore, it is certain that if M. Raditch were to bring about the fall of the present Government without adequate cause, he would from that moment have the Croatian intellectuals against him to a man. True, at this moment they have no mandates; but that is a matter of their own seeking. It was to their interest that Raditch should do the hard work and organise the whole of the Croatian populace against the predominant position of Belgrade. But as soon as Zagreb comes into power:

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as soon as the Croatian peasant shall have done his job for the Croatian intellectuals, his help will be no longer required, and he may go his way. And then Raditch may suddenly find the Croatian *intelligentsia* transformed from a negligible ally into a formidable opponent, and the struggle with Belgrade and the revolt in his own camp could scarcely fail to break him between them.

It will, therefore, not be easy for Stjepan Raditch to come to the right decision, and, despite the peasant leader's usual preference for extremes, he will find a compromise desirable.

One is tempted to believe that the Opposition is counting so surely upon Raditch's blundering, because without that the situation is hopelessly lost for it. If Raditch comes into the Government, the latter may find itself unable to carry on until the next regular General Election in 1927. And as the consolidation of the State is everywhere progressing apace, the Government parties would be able to point with pride to their achievements, and a General Election would hold no terrors for them. Their return to power would not be at all improbable, because in Parliament the Government majority would be strong and assured.

But, apart from all this, the new Government is doing all it can to make itself popular. The law against corruption will do very much to enhance its prestige, and greatly weaken its opponents. Popular feeling is enthusiastically in favour of the fight against corruption, and in taking this into consideration the Government is showing that it rightly comprehends its task.

It would be rash to prophesy regarding forthcoming events. One thing seems certain, however. A return of the former Government is out of the question for good, and Yugoslavia is moving towards a new phase which can bring her nothing but good.

(*The Cyprus Letter will be found on p.* 302).

(*Continued from p.* 290.)

Central London. But now we are getting back to standard. There is something very English about the variety turn—a something which no cosmopolitan revue could supply.

One drawback to the newly improved state exists, however. Most of these music halls are under the same management. This means that artists are booked up by the syndicate for many months ahead, and that they may, therefore, become stereotyped and lacking in inventiveness. The very *raison d'être* of the variety turn is its bubbling and spontaneous individuality, a thing which, of course, is the special foe of syndicates the world over.

Yachting.

Few things since the War have been more gratifying than the enthusiasm shown for yachting, the season of which has just closed. I do not refer merely to the big yachts, such as the Britannia, which mostly occupy the attention of the public, for the record of sport in little six-metre boats and yet smaller one-designers has been splendid. The older yachtsmen, who for the most part sold their craft at the outbreak of War, have returned in great numbers, and new recruits to one of the first sports existing have been large. For a year or two after 1919 one feared that all our young men had either gone a-motoring or had become immersed in the Great Golf Stream, but the record for the past season shows that many of the saner-minded young men have become lovers of sailing, of cruising, naturally, rather than of racing.

ALTER EGO.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE KHALIFATE.

Since 1914 we have seen the Khalif calling Islam to arms against the enemies of Imperial Germany, who were nevertheless able to array most of the Muslims of the world against him; we have seen some members of a once-loyal community excited almost to rebellion by the suggestion that the Ottoman Sultan should pay the natural penalty of folly and defeat; and, finally, we have seen the man banished from his native land and his office almost contemptuously abolished by a local assembly representing, or misrepresenting, an infinitesimal minority of those whom he claimed as his followers.

To those who are curious to learn something of the office of a dignitary who could thus pose as a world potentate and within a few years be quietly dismissed like a disobedient lackey, whose place was not worth filling, we recommend a study of Sir Thomas Arnold's book on the subject*, for it may be doubted whether there is, in any language, a fairer, more lucid, more concise, or more scholarly account of the evolution of the political theory of the Khalifate, and of the history of the office. The author has no theory of his own to propound, and his work contains no important statement of doctrine, principle, or historical fact for which chapter and verse are not cited. We have not only a full and unbiased record of what theologians of various schools have held that the Khalifate should be, and of what it was, but a critical account of the scanty substructure of tribal precedents and doubtful traditions on which they based their theories. So many are the views of the office and the vicissitudes through which it has passed that it is far easier to say what it is not than to define what it is. The highest view, strangely enough, has been taken by Christians, who, ignorant of the principles of Islam, have sought an analogy in their own system, and have seen in the Khalif a kind of Pope, with spiritual jurisdiction over Muslims throughout the world. "How entirely misleading and incorrect such a comparison is may easily be judged by consideration of the fundamental differences between the two faiths, Christianity and Islam," for, as the author shows, no trace of any such powers as are claimed and exercised by the Pope is to be found in the Muslim history of the Khalifate; the Khalif has never been held to be the depository of divine faith, and there is no priesthood in Islam.

To this view, erroneous as it is, may be traced the acknowledgment by Christian powers, either expressly or by implication, of some degree of extra-territorial authority in the Ottoman Sultan over their Muslim subjects, and it is not improbable that it has fostered the popular ideal of the

* "The Caliphate," by Sir Thomas W. Arnold, C.I.E., Litt.D., Professor of Arabic in the University of London, School of Oriental Studies. (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1924.)

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office as a world-sovereignty in which the Khalif of Islam, as vicegerent of God, should rule all peoples, propagate the faith, and wage holy war against unbelievers, until there should be no government in the world but that of Allah—an ideal which, though there remains no possibility of its attainment, is yet cherished by visionaries and by such as are blinded by zeal or ignorance, and may still, as we have seen, be exploited to serve political ends.

The historic Khalifate began, as some, not without good grounds, hold that it ended, with the four "rightly guided" Khalifs, and fell in turn into the hands of the Umayyads and the Abbasids, with the latter of whom it died a lingering death. To pretend that it survived the establishment of two rival Khalifs, an Umayyad in Spain and a Fatimid in Egypt, and was even resuscitated in the Abbasid dependants of the Mamluks, is but to admit that the word had lost its signification, as, in fact, it had. Sir Thomas Arnold traces this change. The etymological meaning of the word is "successor," as in the original title, "Successor of the Apostle," but when "God" was substituted for "the Apostle," "successor" could no longer stand, and the idea which the word then connoted was that of vicegerency. When, again, the title was not only assumed by Turkmans in Fars, Uzbegs in Transoxiana, Timurids in Khurasan and India, Saljugs in Asia Minor, Khaljis in India, Hafsids and Marinids in Africa, and petty kings in Spain, but was accorded to many of them by contemporary Muslim princes, including, in at least two instances, the Ottoman Sultan, it was clear that it meant little more than "king" or "ruler," and it was in this sense that it was borne by the Ottoman Sultans, for Sir Thomas Arnold has demolished the generally accepted fiction of the resignation of the office by the last of the phantom Khalifs of Egypt in favour of Salim the Grim. It has ever been the view of orthodox theologians that membership of the Koreish was an indispensable qualification for the office, and it was with a view to remedying the defect in the Sultan's title that the story of the resignation was fabricated, but Sir Thomas has proved, not only that there is no evidence of the resignation, but that the title was used by Salim and his ancestors for 130 years before his conquest of Egypt.

A study of Sir Thomas Arnold's book will convince all but the wilfully blind that the Khalifate of the theologians perished centuries ago, and that the pretence that the Ottoman Sultan was the successor of Umar the Discriminator, Mu'awiya, and Harun-ur-Rashid is a comparatively recent fiction. The institution cannot be revived; the sentiment of nationality forbids it, and Islam has done very well without it. Now that the last pretender to the vanished dignity has disappeared from the stage, it is to be hoped that there will be no attempt to resuscitate a title which, despite its degradation, still retains sufficient prestige to foment strife and bitterness between those likely to contend for it. What Angora has thrown away is not worth picking up.

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INDIAN EMIGRATION.

"INDIAN EMIGRATION." By "Emigrant." (London: Humphrey Milford. 3s. net.

This booklet is one of the series called "India of To-day," and published under the general editorship of the Director of the Central Bureau of Information at Delhi, to enable students "to keep in touch with the current problems of India." It is well suited to its declared purpose, giving a clear account of the last century, during which the Government first strove to abolish the evils incidental to the system of indentured emigration, and then, in deference to middle-class sentiment, abolished the system itself. We should have preferred to know the author's name: to our mind, pseudonyms are as unsuitable to such semi-official publications as caricatures would be, and there seems to be a *suggestio falsi* in this particular pseudonym, for the book could not have been written by an emigrant, but strongly suggests someone with a settled home in an Indian secretariat. Its weakest point is its failure to place the system in its proper historical position. The author, indeed, indulges in a little speculation regarding emigration a thousand years ago, but he seems never to have heard of the Indian slave trade as it flourished, at any rate, from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century, and consequently ignores the facts that indentured emigration met the social and economic needs formerly met in part by the Indian slave dealer, and that the "crimping" which marred it so seriously derives directly from the slaver's methods. In the old days, Indians, oppressed by Indians, sold themselves to Indian slavers for export, and were very often cheated in the bargain; more recently, they sold themselves to Indian recruiters for the same reason, and were cheated as before; at present they cannot sell themselves, and must endure the social and economic oppression, from which they would escape if they could. Such is the position to-day; the next step is to open out more effective avenues of escape, but on this topic "Emigrant" has little to tell us.

GYPSY TALES.

"LOVE AND THE GYPSY." By Konrad Bercovici. (London: Nash and Grayson. 7s. 6d. net.)

The country through which the old gypsy chief Murdo and Mr. Bercovici's other characters move is wild and uncivilised, and it is a good background for the primitive emotions which he describes. We find Murdo first "up in the Carpathians, trying to enter Hungary by an unknown path in the mountains."

There is something of the freshness of mountain air in these tales of people who love and hate frankly and without subtlety. Mr. Bercovici can introduce an exciting situation and work it up to a satisfying climax. Sometimes he achieves a wild pathos which is truly touching.

We liked best the story of Ileana. Ileana's Jewish blood kept her from going to the young Greek who waited for her on the shore of the Danube until he had had to sacrifice all his boatful of golden melons, and her gypsy blood, when he had gone, kept her watching in vain for his return until she was a shrunken old woman.

J. B. AINSLIE.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

September 18, 1924 (New Style).
August 5, 1924 (Old Style).
Saphar 18, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Ellul 19, 5684, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Duke of Sutherland arrived in Athens on September 10.

Husrew Bey has been appointed Turkish Minister in Budapest.

Sir Harry Brittain, M.P., left London last Thursday for Bucharest.

Lady Willcocks left London on September 12 in the liner Morvada for Port Said.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania left London last Monday for Bucharest, to visit the King and Queen of Roumania.

The Greek Archimandrite, Dr. Pagonis, has returned to London from the South Coast, where he has been spending several weeks.

Mr. U. Grant Smith, the United States Minister to Albania, has arrived in London from Aix-les-Bains, and will shortly leave for Tirana.

Dr. Gavrilovitch, Minister in London of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, has left for the Continent, and expects to be away for four weeks.

M. Venizelos and Mme. Venizelos have arrived at Venice, and are coming to London at the end of September for the purpose of visiting the British Empire Exhibition.

Vedil Bey, who has been appointed Archivist at the Turkish Diplomatic Mission, and Mme. Vedil arrived in London last Friday from Angora. They are staying in Portland Place.

M. Radu T. Djuvara, Counsellor at the Roumanian Legation, left London on September 15 to take up an appointment at the Foreign Office in Bucharest. M. Nicolas Mishu will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

A. M. Hassanein Bey, First Secretary to the Egyptian Legation at Washington, has gone into a London nursing home to undergo an operation, and has been obliged to postpone his return to the United States.

Princess Hassan, daughter of the Egyptian Minister in London, with her two children, arrived last week in London, and is staying with the Egyptian Minister and Mme. Aziz Izzet at 41, Berkeley Square.

Princess Ileana, the youngest daughter of the King and Queen of Roumania, arrived in London on September 13 from Bucharest, and left the same day for Poole, to pay a visit to the Infanta Beatrice of Spain.

Sir Arthur and Lady Crosfield will give a garden party next Saturday at 41, West Hill, Highgate, to meet the F.I.D.A.C. delegates from America, Belgium, Czecho-Slovakia, France, Italy, Poland, Roumania, and Yugoslavia.

Earl Beatty arrived in Athens on September 10 on a private visit. He was the guest of the Minister of Marine at a dinner given in his honour. Earl and Countess Beatty are expected to return to London at the end of September.

The Rev. Hon. L. Morgan-Grenville left London last Thursday by the P. and O. Bombay Express for Marseilles, where he embarked for Karachi in the P. and O. s.s. China, in which Sir Norcot Warren is also travelling to Bombay.

The chairman and directors of Messrs. Vickers, Limited, D. Napier and Son, Limited, and Shell-Mex, Limited, are giving a luncheon at the Hotel Cecil on September 25 in honour of Squadron-Leader A. S. C. S. MacLaren, O.B.E., M.C., D.F.C., A.F.C., and the crew of the Vickers-Napier "Vulture."

Lord Thomson, Secretary of State for Air, accompanied by Mr. C. Ll. Bullock, his private secretary, and Squadron-Leader R. Graham, of the Air Staff, leaves this week for a tour of inspection of the Royal Air Force units in the Middle East and Iraq. The outward and homeward journeys between Egypt and Iraq will be made by air.

King George, of Greece, and Queen Elizabeth ended their visit to London last Friday, and left for Italy and Roumania. Their Majesties, who travelled from Victoria Station, were seen off by Prince Nicolas of Roumania, the Queen's brother, Prince Nicolas and Prince Paul of Greece, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, M. Rizo-Rangabé, a former Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London, Mme. Rizo-Rangabé, M. Nicolas Mishu, of the Roumanian Legation, and several other friends, many of whom brought bouquets for her Majesty.

NEW TURKISH AMBASSADOR IN LONDON.

Zekiaï Bey, the newly appointed Turkish Ambassador to the Court of St. James', arrived in London on September 10 from Angora. His Excellency was met at Dover by Orhan Habid Bey, who accompanied him to London. Mme. Zekiaï, with her sons and infant daughter, arrived in London last Friday from Angora. H.E. Zekiaï Bey and Mme. Zekiaï are staying at 60, Portland Place, W.1.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1924.

SOME FACTORS IN INDIAN POLITICS.

When last we surveyed the field of Indian politics we were concerned mainly to point out the tendencies to growth and expansion which have resulted from the working of the new Constitution. To-day we desire to direct attention to the other side of the shield, and examine the principal factors which are working for sterilisation rather than for growth, which are inhibiting beneficent activities and which may possibly retard the development of the country for an indefinite period. The most obvious of these factors is the tendency to form groups round persons instead of policies, and to substitute motives of affection, jealousy, or spite for considerations relating to the public benefit. It would be easy to multiply instances of this tendency, the effect of which is written large over the evidence recorded by the Reforms Committee now at work in Simla, but it is perhaps sufficient to refer to the situation in Bengal, where practically all observers agree that the recent suspension of one side of the Constitution was effected, not by a hostile majority, but by a hostile minority reinforced by the personal enemies of the individuals who happened to be Ministers. Of course, nobody hopes to exclude personal considerations altogether from politics, but the matter is one of degree, and we think all good Aristotelians will concur in the view that it is an error of excess to upset the omnibus because of a tiff with the conductor. Much as we may regret that incident, we cannot, however, agree with those of our contemporaries in India who regard it as unnatural. In fact it derives directly from India's past. In the days when the throne was the only fountain of policy men did not take sides on questions of principle or expediency, but supported this candidate or that for high preferment. Who should be the next Prime Minister? Who should be relegated to Bengal, or one of the other penal settlements? Such were the questions which people discussed most eagerly under the Moguls, and the habit has persisted through more than a century of British rule. Ten years ago Indians took far more interest in personal questions than in anything else. They asked who would be the new Governor, or the new Finance Member, and to-day they ask who will be the new Minister in precisely the same tones. The difference is that what did no harm under the old *régime* does a great deal of harm now, and so long as Indians maintain this obsolete attitude the new field of political effort recently thrown open to them will yield a disappointing harvest.

A second sterilising factor is the newer Indian nationalism. This mental attitude is in itself a healthy reaction from the time when Indians held that India offered nothing good, but at the moment the reaction is being carried to a ridiculous and dangerous length. Things good in themselves are rejected, solely on the ground of their foreign origin, tasks of first-rate importance are assigned to third-rate Indians rather than to the most competent agents available, isolation is regarded as the highest ideal, and scarcely a voice is raised in favour of the synthesis of East and West on which India's aims must ultimately be concentrated.

Fortunately for India we believe this phase will prove to be of short duration. The momentary prominence of the ideal of exclusiveness, fostered as it has been by active dissemination of the gospel of racial hate, has done an infinity of harm, not merely in politics, but in business, in the schools, and in nearly every department of the national activity, but the results are already being recognised, the influence of the preachers of hate has perceptibly decreased, and there are signs of a healthy reaction towards that saner nationalism which commands the respectful sympathy of the world at large. The near future depends largely on the extent to which Indians of position and capacity assist this movement. Some of them are already working for it; what is wanted now is more workers and harder work.

We wish it were possible to take an equally hopeful view of the third factor we have to examine, the profound pessimism which is ingrained so deeply in the Indian mind. It spreads over the whole field of national endeavour like some insidious blight, barely visible perhaps to the eye, but its existence made manifest by stunted growth and disappointing produce. Many examples of its operation could be drawn from the evidence given before the Reform Committee. If there have been any optimists among the witnesses, they have escaped the notice of the reporters. The whole tale is a tale of discouragement in face of minor difficulties. Given the advantages which India enjoys, one-tenth of the optimism which so often carried one or other of the Dominions over the dead points in their early struggles would have sufficed to keep the wheels of the new Constitution running smoothly; institutions have not failed, but hearts have fainted. This habit of pessimism is, as we have said, ingrained in the national mind, and, in the field of politics at least, it finds an ample explanation in history. The popular myth which embodies it, the Golden Age in the distant past, the Black Age in the present and the indefinite future, was a perfectly sound inference from the facts at the time it arose, for the indigenous Indian polity led inevitably to progressive deterioration and ultimate ruin. What the old philosophers failed to realise was the possibility of some alternative polity giving scope for national progress, but even while they were drawing correct conclusions from their limited experience further data were being brought to light in other countries. The Indian polity was a failure, but the remedy lay in profiting by what had been learned elsewhere, and this remedy was brought within reach by the period of foreign domination from which India is now emerging. The view which we wish to press upon our Indian readers is this: Their tradition of the Black Age embodies an historical fact, and one of the most terrible facts in the world's history, but with the eighteenth century the worst was over, and since then the light has increased slowly but steadily. There are dark shadows still, where people may think that it is still night, but those who look upward and forward, instead of backward and downward, will see that a new age has dawned in which India as a nation can go forward with increasing confidence towards a position which will satisfy her highest aspirations. Pessimism was justified in the past, but it is indefensible to-day, and in our view it is the worst of all the enemies which India has to fight.

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THE TRANSJORDAN FIGHTING.

By MAJOR E. W. POLSON NEWMAN.

On August 14 the peaceful hills and dales which surround the Transjordan capital were suddenly transformed into a scene of bloodshed and strife. Early in the morning an R.A.F. lorry was proceeding from Amman to Ziza, on the Hejaz railway, with petrol to fill up the Cairo-Baghdad air mail, when it was stopped on the road by some Bedouin, who informed the driver that a force of Wahhabis was advancing on Amman. The lorry at once returned to the aerodrome, and the driver reported the matter to the officer commanding. An air reconnaissance was at once sent out, and the observer had no difficulty in recognising the nationality of the advancing hordes. These warlike men of the desert had trekked northward from the plateau in the centre of Arabia, known as the Nejd, a journey which must have taken them about forty-four days. For the most part they were mounted on camels and carried the green and white banners of their tribes.

In their advance the Wahhabis swarmed into the villages and slaughtered as many Transjordan tribesmen as they could lay hands on. Coming in the very early hours of the morning, they caught most of the people in their beds. In one small village which the writer visited they cut the throats of thirty-three people. There are now only three men, one woman, and two children left there. The first resistance they encountered was but slight, namely, men of the Beni Sakhr tribe, who cleared off with considerable rapidity. At about nine o'clock, however, three aeroplanes left the Amman aerodrome and attacked the Wahhabis with bombs and machine-guns, supported about half an hour later by three armoured cars. A sharp encounter ensued, and the stillness of the Transjordan landscape was broken by the crash of bombs and the crackle of rifle-fire. The Wahhabis shot at the aeroplanes with their rifles, but only succeeded in inflicting one slight casualty. The power of modern weapons was, however, soon too much for the enemy, and their attack was very quickly broken, the assailants retiring east of the railway line at Ziza. The invaders were then pursued in a running fight by the armoured cars until about 11.30 a.m., when the action had to be broken off owing to shortage of ammunition.

A second air-raid left Amman a little before eleven and attacked the enemy east of Meshetta, shortly after the armoured cars had given up the pursuit. A further air-raid, which left Amman at 2.30 p.m., located and attacked the retreating Wahhabis forty miles from Amman and fleeing in an easterly direction. After that the Wahhabis faded away into the "blue." Their retreat eastward proved to be a most disastrous operation, for subsequent reconnaissance, both by air and by means of Bedouin scouts, has found the whole country from Kaf as far as Jauf literally strewn with corpses. Hundreds must have died for want of water, both men and animals. The casualties of the troops were one officer and one other rank slightly wounded, while the Transjordan tribesmen also sustained some losses. The casualties of the enemy were estimated at several hundreds. Eight banners were captured in the fight, and a large quantity of arms and miscellaneous loot. It was only when the time for looting the dead arrived that the Beni Sakhr tribe really became a potential force, and this part of the operation they certainly carried out with great thoroughness, loading up their camels with every article of any value they could find. One of the tribe took £E1,000 in notes off the dead body of a Damascus merchant who had been slaughtered at Kastel. A number of prisoners were taken. The leaders will be hanged, and the remainder sent back to the Nejd. It is possible that the Transjordan Government will find that a good number of the prisoners are leaders.

Undoubtedly, the object of the raid was to increase the Wahhabi territory and revenue. As tents, carpets, etc., were found amongst their baggage, the raiders obviously came intending to stay. A good number—unfortunately for them—have made Transjordan their home for all time. Their leaders are reported to have told them that it was a religious war, that no mercy was to be shown to the Transjordan tribesmen, but that British troops were to be spared.

The Wahhabis are best described as a Puritan sect of Islam. Their teaching differs very considerably from the orthodox Moslem doctrine. They reject Ijma, or the agreement of later interpreters; they offer no prayers to prophet, wali, or saint, nor visit their tombs for that purpose; they say Mohammed is not yet an intercessor, although he will be one at the last day. They forbid women to visit the graves of the dead, and they allow only four festivals: Fitr, Azha, 'Ashura, and Lailat El Mobarek. They do not celebrate Mohammed's birth. They use their knuckles for prayer-counting instead of rosaries, and they strictly forbid the use of silk, gold, silver, ornaments, tobacco, music, opium, and every luxury of the Orient, except perfume and women. They have anthropomorphic ideas of God by a strictly literal interpretation of the Koran texts about "His hand," "sitting," etc., and they believe that Jihad, or religious war, is not out of date, but incumbent on the believer. They condemn minarets, tombstones, and everything that was not in use during the first years of Islam. An example of their beliefs with regard to the wearing of silk assumed a concrete form during their advance through Transjordan. In one of the villages they came upon a wedding party, and, finding the bride all dressed up in silks and ornaments, they proceeded to strip her and chase her across the desert in the costume in which she was born.

The Wahhabis are sworn enemies of the Hashimite House, and refuse to acknowledge King Hussein as Khalif. They are, therefore, a constant source of danger to the Hejaz, Transjordan, and Irak. This time, however, they have been severely punished, and it is not likely that they will try to compete with aeroplanes and armoured cars for some considerable time to come.

As a result of this Wahhabi raid and some serious cases of brigandage, which took place at the beginning of the month, Rikabi Pasha, the Transjordan Prime Minister, has been involved in the most compromising intrigue. The march of events was as follows:—On August 3 and 4 an attack was made by a band of Transjordan brigands on the railway station at Mekarem, and a motor-car was held up in the vicinity of Mezareb by another gang of bandits, who inflicted several casualties among the occupants. Mekarem and Mezareb are both in Syria, but close to the Transjordan frontier, across which the brigands fled as rapidly as possible. At the time of these incidents the Emir Abdullah was on his return journey from Mecca, so, in His Highness's absence, the Prime Minister, Ali Rida Pasha er-Rikabi, thinking it very probable that the bandits were of Transjordan nationality, gave orders for the arrest of all suspected persons found either in Transjordan or returning from Syria. In order to accomplish this, he gave full powers to Peake Pasha, the British officer commanding the local Transjordan forces. About ten days later a detachment of British gen-

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darmerie was sent to reinforce the local troops. This detachment was ordered to Irbid, and placed under the command of Peake Pasha. This action was taken in order to do everything possible to put an end to the activities of these brigand bands. Meanwhile some thirty suspected persons had been arrested.

On the same day as the British gendarmes were ordered to move to Transjordan, the Wahhabis delivered their attack, and although the raiders were driven off with heavy loss, the British forces at Amman were reinforced by one squadron of cavalry and some armoured cars. These reinforcements arrived in Amman on the evening of the attack and during the following day. As a result of all this a violent attack has been launched at Rikabi Pasha by a section of the Syrian and Palestinian Press. The newspapers in question actually accuse him of arranging a movement of brigands into Syria, of plotting for the overthrow of His Highness the Emir, of causing the country to be occupied by British troops with a view to its annexation to Palestine, and, worst of all, of arranging, in consultation with the British authorities, that the Wahhabis should invade Transjordan in order to provide an excuse for occupying it with British troops.

There is not one grain of truth in the above accusations. If they were less childish they would be more dangerous. Rikabi Pasha is a man of exceptional ability, who was before the war a major-general in the Turkish Army, and has held some of the highest appointments in the Turkish Empire. Transjordan is very fortunate to have him as Prime Minister. He has the good of the country at heart, which is more than can be said of those who hurl false accusations at him and use the Press of other countries in order to further their nefarious schemes.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Serious floods have overwhelmed several parts of the Punjab. In Bharatpur State 200 villages have been flooded, and Bharatpur City itself is threatened.

According to reports from Batoum, the Soviet has detrained troops there, and is using the Batoum-Tiflis railway for the transport of Red troops to crush the Georgian revolt.

Jackie Coogan, the famous American child film star, after spending this week in London, is proceeding to the Near East to distribute his 1,000,000 dollars for the relief of children in that region.

Mustapha Kemal Pasha, on board the cruiser Hamidieh, passed through the Bosphorus last Friday *en route* for Trebizond, where he is staying for a fortnight. No stop was made at Constantinople.

According to a Reuter message from Bombay, dated September 12, the Central Khalifat Committee has issued an appeal to Indian Moslems to pray for the success of the Rifi, and has resolved to organise financial help.

King Alexander of Yugoslavia and Queen Marie returned last week to Belgrade from their five weeks' tour in the country. It is understood their Majesties have arranged to pay a visit to England in the course of next year.

A parcels service is to be added by the Nairn Transport Company to its motor-car passenger service from Beirut to Baghdad. It will begin on October 30, and will run weekly. Parcels despatched from London by this route will reach Baghdad within fifteen days.

A telegram from Simla states that Aeroplane DH9A, belonging to the 60th Squadron, Royal Air Force, crashed while taking off at Arawali on September 10. Pilot-officer C. H. Ratcliffe and Aircraftsman Gomm were slightly injured.

The *Morning Post* Cairo correspondent reports that the Egyptian Ministry of Finance has instructed the Customs authorities to treat Germans and Austrians as in the same category as the subjects of Powers not entitled to the privileges of the Capitulations.

The Greek Government has brought to the knowledge of the Allied Powers its inability, owing to the country's laws, to surrender to Albania the fourteen villages of the Koritza district without the assent of the National Assembly, which will meet in about a month's time.

All the members of the Bulgarian Cabinet and of the Diplomatic Body, as well as sixteen Archbishops and Bishops and numerous high military and civil officials, attended the consecration of the new cathedral of Saint Alexander Nevski at Sofia last Friday.

Ali Haidar Pasha, the Prefect of Angora, together with a number of Turkish technical experts, paid a visit to the Mayor of Budapest last week. The experts are leaving to visit the different European capitals to get ideas for the construction of the new Turkish capital at Angora.

A strike of electricians at Athens, which began on September 9, was still in progress at the beginning of this week. Athens was without trams, but these were replaced by omnibuses, including a dozen old London General omnibuses. The electric light supply was maintained.

According to the *Daily Telegraph* Constantinople correspondent, two serious earthquake shocks were felt on September 7 in the district of Erzeroum. Eighteen villages were badly affected. Eighty per cent. of the houses were completely destroyed, and the remainder were rendered uninhabitable.

The Queen of Yugoslavia has consented to become the president of the Society for Training Serbian Women. The society, which has been in existence since 1917, aims at educating in some of the professions a number of Serbian girls in England, and sending them back, when fully trained and qualified, to work in their own country.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Near Eastern Exchanges.

The course of the Near Eastern exchanges during the present year deserves more than a little attention by British business men. One of the excuses made for not seeking trade in the Near East is that the exchanges put commerce almost out of the question. Like all the excuses put forward in this connection, there is a certain amount of truth in it, but not nearly so much as those who put it forward would have us believe. To explain what I mean I shall quote some of the rates of these exchanges during the present year. Early in April the Greek drachma stood at 250 for sterling, the Yugoslav dinar at 350, the Roumanian leu at 825, the Bulgarian lev at 600, and the Turkish piastre at 825. By the middle of July the drachma stood at 257, the dinar at 371, the lev at 600, the piastre at 860, and the leu, which had depreciated owing to political developments, at 960. Yesterday the respective rates were: 250 for the drachma, 330 for the dinar, 840 for the leu, 610 for the lev, and 822½ for the piastre. In other words, over a long period there has been, except in the case of the Roumanian exchange, comparatively little variation in the rates. They are, in short, becoming stabilised.

Near Eastern Trade.

Now, the importance of that fact is obvious. Provided an exchange is stabilised trade can be done; it is the constant fluctuations that upset business and bring commerce to a standstill. The rate is, in fact, relatively immaterial, and the reason why I lay stress on this development in the Near Eastern exchanges is because the stabilising tendency should give our business men their opportunity to enter the markets in that part of the world. All accounts agree that in many of the markets there business is beginning to revive, and now that a European settlement is a *fait accompli* there is every reason to anticipate that the near future will see a great revival of trade in the Near East. If British merchants and manufacturers are to share in this growing business it behoves them to lose no time in looking after the markets. They cannot expect Near Eastern traders to come to Great Britain to find them; on the contrary, they must use every means of catering for the requirements of the markets in question, and thus only will they share in the trade.

Trade Conferences at Wembley.

It has been an essentially practical development of the spirit of the British Empire Exhibition to bring together representatives of the various trades and the Exhibition Commissioners for an exchange of views on subjects with which they are immediately concerned. In the ordinary course of events a business man interested, it may be, in cotton, silk, or tobacco will go to Wembley, take stock of the exhibits, and decide which, if any, are suited to his purpose. If he finds what he wants, Empire trade will presumably benefit. It may happen, however, that he finds lacking something on which he sets special store or to which he is accustomed, and the Dominion or colony may lose business just from want of knowledge of the particular requirements of the Home business man. The informal conferences that are now being held enable the overseas representatives to meet leading exhibitors in the different trades, to hear from them what they want, and to inform them in turn of the capabilities of the territories with which the representatives are connected. In this way valuable information can be exchanged, and the results should conduce to the promotion of Imperial trade.

The Future of the Exhibition.

Opinion seems to be gradually veering round to the view that it would be foolish not to keep the Exhibition in being for another year, and while we may have to wait some time for a definite statement on the subject, it may now be assumed, I think, that we shall be able to go to Wembley again next summer (or winter, if you like) just as we have this one. I must confess that I have never seen what could be gained by closing down this year. The weather ruined all chance of attendances on an adequate scale, but, despite the climatic conditions, there has been a gradual development of interest in the undertaking, and most of this year's visitors will probably come again, while the favourable political developments abroad should mean a greater influx of foreign visitors.

The British Industries Fair.

We shall soon be hearing details of the British Industries Fair, which it is proposed to hold, I

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believe, in February next year, instead of a couple of months later, as was the case this year. Of course, if the Exhibition is to run another year there can scarcely be any question of transferring the Fair to Wembley, and it will doubtless be found in its old home at the White City, which has the advantage of being much more accessible than Wembley. Hitherto conditions abroad have never favoured the Fair, but this time it looks as if it will take place at a time of marked trade revival, and I shall look to see it justify itself in no uncertain way.

Commentator.

NOTES FROM CYPRUS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Nicosia, September 6.

Forest Fires.

A recent fire in the Papho district, which destroyed trees valued at over £10,000, has caused much concern, not only on account of the value of the timber lost, but having regard to its climatic effects. Unfortunately, this has been followed by a far more disastrous conflagration, which is probably the worst the island has suffered, not only since the British occupation, but for a far longer period. The area of destruction is said to embrace a circuit of over fifty miles. Two minor forest fires have also taken place in the Troödos range. The first mentioned spread with great rapidity, dense clouds of smoke being visible in many places. The forest staff, police, and thousands of villagers hastened to the spots, and worked day and night, and all the British soldiers who could be spared from the detachment in summer quarters on Mt. Troödos were dispatched to help.

The origin of a forest fire can seldom be traced. Sometimes it is due to accident, such as the end of a cigarette; sometimes no doubt to an act of revenge by a convicted shepherd or other villager.

The British Government in 1878 stepped in just in time to save what remained of the Cyprus forests. By delimitation of State forests, and by strict enforcement of the laws, much has been done. Re-afforestation to some, but an insufficient, extent has proceeded for some years. It does not probably keep pace with the destruction that goes on. Preservation has done much, and, if pre-British Consular reports are to be trusted, the rainfall has improved to a marked extent during our administration.

Under Ottoman law villagers residing close to the forests have a right to collect dry fuel for their own domestic purposes, but no more. Other villagers resent their exclusion from this privilege. It is much the same as regards salt. Villagers living near the salt lagoons, where it is collected under Government monopoly or guarded, cannot see why they should have to pay for "the gift of God," which Nature has provided close to their doors. They, moreover, have no privilege like those who enjoy forest rights.

There can be no doubt that strict execution of the laws has been the right policy. There has been a never-ending controversy over Government policy, and there will now be a renewal of discussion, and probably a strong outburst of adverse comment, in view of this very serious misfortune to the island. Critics of Government policy advocate relaxation of the regulations, and a wide extension of grazing permits for goats and sheep within the delimited forests. More damage, they say, is done by incendiaries than can be done by grazing flocks. This view is often urged by "political bishops" and others in the Legislative Council and by the Press. If the Government would alter its policy the vindictive villager would, they say, be converted into the best friend and guardian of the forest. It is, however, to the credit of several members of the Council that they fully realise the immense value of the forests, and favour strict application of the laws, and that they have the courage to say so. Indeed many villagers have learned that forests play an important part in agriculture, and admit the need of preservation, except perhaps where their own interests are concerned! The Government, it is said, will now appoint a Commission to inquire into the causes of forest fires, and report on the fresh measures that should be taken to prevent them.

The "National Council."

At a meeting of the so-called Council it has been decided to appeal directly to the Houses of Parliament, and to lay before them the claims of the Greek Cypriots. The Colonial Office is to be made acquainted with this step, and copies of the "appeal" (to be drafted by the "Council") are to be sent to all members of Parliament, and to the friends of Cyprus in England. Letters received from Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Kenworthy, Mr. Pember Reeves, and others were placed before the Council. All this seems hardly consistent with the professed resolution (which is believed to have been come to) to work harmoniously with the Government.

VICKERS' EXHIBITS AT OLYMPIA.

Vickers, Ltd., has a complete range of small tools and machine tools at the British Empire Exhibition, and their exhibits at Olympia are confined to a few representative tools such as broaches, adjustable reamers, unbreakable all-steel independent four-jaw chucks, and quick-change drill chucks. These are displayed on Stand No. 59 of Messrs. Chas. Churchill and Co., who are the sole selling agents for the United Kingdom for Vickers machine tools, four-jaw chucks, and broaches.

At the British Empire Exhibition Vickers machine tools and small tools are to be seen in operation at the Vickers stand in the Palace of Engineering. Demonstrations of the Vickers Vanadium high-power drills and patent adjustable reamers are given on a town radial drilling machine. Here may also be seen Vickers gear-shaping machine and tool room lathe, as well as Vickers No. 3 broaching machine in operation.

The report of the Minerva (Roumania) Oil Company, Ltd., for August states that 800 metres were drilled in four wells in Moreni and Runcu. The total production of oil, including oil derived from royalty wells, was 777 tons.

A Reuter message from Athens, dated September 14, states:—"The strike situation has not improved, and the strikers have so far disregarded the Government's warnings. The railway workmen and employees have announced their decision to go on strike in spite of the Government's threat to mobilise them if they strike. A bakers' and millers' strike is also a possibility, and the Government is taking measures to meet every eventuality. Naval engineers are in charge of the power works and sufficient current for lighting purposes and for the running of the tramways has been provided."

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THE FINANCIAL SITUATION IN GREECE.

STATEMENT BY FINANCE MINISTER.

The Greek Minister of Finance made a lengthy statement to the Press the other day concerning the present financial situation in Greece and the prospects of the near future. The tone of his statement—the chief points of which are given below—is one of confidence in the financial conditions of the country, which are improving every day. In view of the approaching issue, in London and New York, of the Greek Loan for the settlement of the Asia Minor refugees, the Minister's declarations will be read with interest in this country. There is no doubt that Greece is steadily progressing on the road of healthy finance, and if account be taken of the large resources of the country, of the intelligence of its people, and of the determination of its rulers to put their house in order, one may be sure that the day is not remote when Greece will see her Budget balanced and her currency improved.

As the treaty of peace was signed at Lausanne only towards the end of July, 1923, it cannot be said that the past year was a peace year for Greece. This must be taken into consideration when drawing conclusions from the returns for that period. The budgetary estimates for 1923-1924 were originally as follows (in millions of drachmæ):—Revenue: Ordinary, 3,031; extraordinary, 910; total, 3,941. Expenditure: Ordinary, 2,961; extraordinary, 3,663; total, 6,624; deficit, 2,683. In consequence of additional credits during the year, the estimated deficit rose subsequently to 3,038 millions. The returns from April 1, 1923, to March 31, 1924, show the following results:—Revenue: Ordinary, 3,117; extraordinary, 588; total, 3,705. Expenditure: Ordinary, 1,582; extraordinary, 2,311; total, 3,893. Deficit, 188 millions.

The above deficit of 188 millions is due to extraordinary expenditure, the deficit from which was greatly reduced by the surplus of 1,535 millions from ordinary revenue. As the books for the financial year 1923-1924 would be closed at the end of July, 1924, the above deficit of 188 millions will finally be increased to 1,316 millions, in consequence of payments that would be made by the Treasury up to that date. Thus the year under review will show a deficit of 1,316 millions in lieu of the estimated amount of 3,038 millions—*i.e.*, 1,722 millions drachmæ less. As the Treasury disposes of a credit balance from previous years of 350 millions, the deficit is reduced by that amount to 966 millions.

In this connection it should be stated that the deficit is due exclusively to war expenditure. In fact, since the financial year 1920-1921, when the Asia Minor campaign began, to the end of 1923-1924, war expenditure amounted to no less than 7,731 million drachmæ, distributed as follows:—War Office, 5,802; Ministry of Marine, 956; refugee relief, 479; refugee settlement, 250; soldiers' families relief, 244; total, 7,731 millions. This amount has been raised either by internal loans or by taxation. The items for the refugees do not include the advances made by the Bank of England and the Greek banks against the Refugee Loan. Nor do they comprise the sums disbursed for the settlement of refugees by the Refugee Settlement Commission.

To understand the fiscal effort made by the country one need only mention that the amount derived from direct taxes has risen from 23 millions in 1912 to 719 millions for the financial year 1923-1924. On the other hand, indirect taxes have equally increased from 71 millions to 1,870 millions. During the war period not only has Greece paid regularly the interest and sinking fund on its public debt, domestic and foreign, but has even improved the rate of interest paid on the old gold loans which are controlled by the International Financial Commission.

In the first months of 1923, when a continuation of the war was still feared, the national currency showed a depreciating tendency. Exchange on London was then fluctuating between 385 and 428 drachmæ to the pound sterling. Since then the Greek exchange has greatly improved. It has appreciated to 200 drachmæ to the pound, and has not declined much above 260 drachmæ. This improvement is a proof of confidence in the economic robustness of the country.

The original Budget estimates for 1924-1925, as subsequently modified, are as follows (in millions of drachmæ):—Revenue: Ordinary, 3,458; extraordinary, 500; total, 3,958. Expenditure: Ordinary, 2,906; extraordinary, 1,569; total, 4,475; deficit, 517. Extraordinary expenditure includes an amount of 761 millions, representing certain quite exceptional items. This expenditure, reduced to the minimum possible, is due to the elementary need of providing for the refugees and replacing the material lost in Asia Minor. But for this item the Budget would close with a surplus.

The Public Debt, internal and external, amounted on March 31, 1924, to 9,288 million drachmæ. Loans in foreign money, calculated at the par of exchange, account for 1,675 millions in the above total. The service of the Debt required a sum of 1,005 millions. The average rate at which exchange on London for the service of the Foreign Debt was acquired during the past year was 298 drachmæ. During the current year it is much below 240 drachmæ.

Expenditure for this year has been put at 903 millions less than in the previous year. This reduction is due to the cutting down of war expenditure and to difference in exchange. The extraordinary expenditure of the War and Marine Ministries amounted in 1923-1924 to 1,328 millions. The estimated expenditure under this heading is only 518 millions for the current year. On the other hand, the loss difference in exchange is reduced this year by 244 millions. These figures suffice to show the exactness of the estimates. As

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regards revenue the actual returns of the past year have been taken as basis. However, a greater yield of the taxes is anticipated this year. A comparison of the returns for the first four months of the current financial year with those of the past year supports this assumption. Revenue receipts for each month were as follows (in millions of drachmæ) :—1923 : April, 110; May, 140; June, 58; July, 44; total, 352. 1924 : April, 69; May, 124; June, 174; July, 129 total, 496. The position of the Public Treasury is considered as satisfactory. Its disposable funds amount to-day to 434,500,000 drachmæ, £60,000, and 4,300,000 francs.

This balance arises almost entirely from tax receipts. Only a small part is due to the sale of Treasury Bills. The latter, representing the largest part of the Floating Debt, amounted on August 9 to 1,690 millions. The interest paid on this sum is not higher than 5½ per cent. By the sale of these bills the Treasury was supplied with liquid funds in moments of cash shortage. However, the fact is not lost sight of that recourse to this measure must be as limited as possible.

The Minister ended his statement with the following remarks : "Avoiding all comment, we leave to the figures which we have given the care for a more eloquent support of the optimistic view which we take of the economic future of Greece."

NEW COMPANIES.

Belfante and Catoni.

Belfante and Catoni, Ltd., has been registered as a private company, with a nominal capital of £10,000, in £1 shares, to acquire the business carried on at Alexandretta, Syria, as Belfante and Catoni, and a branch carried on at Mersine, Cilicia, as Joseph Catoni and Co., shipowners and brokers, shipping agents, ships' chandlers and general traders, etc. The directors are :—J. Catoni, Alexandretta, Syria, merchant; A. Catoni, Alexandretta, Syria, merchant; R. H. Littlehales, 78-82, George Street, Manchester (managing director, Anglo-Syrian Trading Company). The registered office is at 82, George Street, Manchester.

Oilwells Selection Corporation.

Oilwells Selection Corporation (Drillers and Contractors), Ltd., was registered as a public company on September 11, with a nominal capital of £150,000, in £1 shares, to carry on the business of well sinkers, drillers, refiners, sellers, and distributors of petroleum and other oils, and to acquire securities issued or guaranteed by any company constituted or carrying on business in Roumania, the United Kingdom, or elsewhere.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Smyrna-Aidin Railway.

The report of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin for the half-year to June 30, 1924, states that working conditions during the period have been far from satisfactory, and the general conditions in Asia Minor, together with the continual fall in value of the Turkish piastre, have occasioned a heavy decrease in profits as compared with the corresponding period of 1923. To these adverse conditions must be added the fact that trade as a whole from the port of Smyrna has not increased with that celerity which it was expected would ensue after the termination of hostilities. It is hoped that the ratification of the Treaty of Peace with Turkey by Great Britain will ameliorate the general situation.

With regard to reparations from Turkey, the Council state that some considerable progress has been attained with regard to this important matter. It is hoped that an agreement will shortly be arrived at with the Turkish Government representatives which will be submitted to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey for ratification when that body meets at Angora in October next. The Council desire to intimate that the terms of the proposed agreement do not provide for the immediate payment of any sums in cash. If the agreement is ratified, however, substantial advantages should accrue to the company, in due course, and when local conditions permit, by reason of greater latitude being granted on the question of tariffs.

The Turkish Government have lately intimated their desire that in future formal general meetings of the company should be held in Turkey. This matter is at present engaging the attention of the Council, and it is hoped that an arrangement which will be satisfactory to both parties will be arrived at in due course.

The amount and method of payment of considerable sums due to the company by the Greek Government, both on account of damage and also in respect of the utilisation of the company's services during the period of Greek occupation of Asia Minor, still remain unsettled.

The general manager, in his report, states that owing to an unfortunate concurrence of adverse conditions, the results of the half-year's working are the poorest on record. The factors producing this result were (1) the failure of the grain crops on the high plateau last autumn; (2) failure of the cotton and olive crops, both paying high rates; (3) continued depreciation of paper currency; (4) reduced tariffs brought into force in July, 1923; (5) unsettled state of the country through exchange of populations; and (6) general stagnation of trade. Owing to (1) and (2) the principal traffics of the winter season were practically non-existent. The tonnage of all goods carried was nearly 26 per cent. less than in the first half of 1923.

Gross receipts amounted to £140,604, against £216,247 in the first half of 1923, a drop of 35 per cent. Coaching receipts fell from £82,007 to £63,290, and goods receipts from £129,730 to £77,288. Working expenses were £124,629, against £128,669—a decrease of £4,040. The number of passengers carried was 35 per cent. greater than last year, being 773,018, against 571,661. A certain proportion of these, however, were immigrants, who were carried at half ordinary fares. The drop in tonnage of goods, from 102,283 last year to 75,783 this year, is accounted for by the failure of the wheat, cotton, and olive crops, smaller cattle traffic (owing to disease), and depression of trade.

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THE COTTON OUTLOOK.

Importance of Empire Production.

The cotton position, always interesting at this period of the year on account of the contingencies attaching to a good, moderate, or bad crop yield, is particularly intriguing at the present time for reasons which will be obvious to all familiar with developments since the War. Ever since the Armistice the question of a probable cotton shortage has been hanging like a cloud over the Lancashire industry. It has coloured the future, and has been the driving force behind the efforts that promise at no distant date to give us a really substantial supply of Empire-grown cotton. There has been no shortage up to the present, simply because the War reduced the world's purchasing power to negligible proportions. But for this consequence there would have been a shortage very soon after the Armistice, for for five years a great part of the world had been out of the market. Many crops have come to harvest since 1918, but still the same tale has to be told of restricted purchases, though all the foreign markets have been, and are, extremely short of supplies. But all the time very gradually but quite perceptibly the tendency has been for the position to improve, while on the whole the yield of American cotton has been on the down grade, and the result has been that year by year the carry-over of American cotton—that index of the outlook—has declined, until to-day it has reached almost negligible proportions. For 1920-21 the carry-over was rather over nine million bales, a year later it was just under five million bales, for 1922-23 it was estimated at a shade over two and a-half million bales, while at the end of July it was more than two hundred thousand bales lower. These figures speak for themselves. While the visible supply of American cotton has thus been reduced so greatly, the world position has suddenly undergone a very marked change for the better. For all practical purposes developments in regard to Russia can be ignored for the time being, but the agreement over German Reparations is in a very different category, and promises in a very short time to bring about a very great change in the world position. It is not so much the potential purchases of cotton goods by Central Europe that is going to affect the position, but the purchases by other markets whose buying power will develop following purchases by Europe of raw material from them. It has been well said that if the natives of Africa were able to purchase a shirt apiece, or if the Chinese were able to add slightly to the length of their garments, Europe would have to go short of cotton goods, and it is no less equally certain that with cotton crops on the level of those of recent years we should now be faced with something akin to the shortage that has for so long been foreseen. Fortunately, however, concurrently with the prospects of expanding markets, we have also the likelihood of much larger crops, and instead of a marked and perhaps rapid rise in cotton, we see a gradual decline in that commodity—a development which will be hailed with relief in Lancashire, for dear cotton means restricted purchases, and a cotton shortage now would have as one inevitable result the curtailment of buying by those markets which will chiefly be affected by the favourable political developments.

It is worth while glancing at the statistical position in regard to cotton at this juncture. The latest American crop forecast indicates a yield of 12,787,000 bales, but as the condition figure of 62.1 is above the average for the period, and as the area planted—40,403,000 acres—shows a very considerable advance on the totals for any of the four previous years, there seems every reason for believing that the crop yield will be substantially in advance of the total given above, and that the final result may be somewhat in advance of 13,000,000 bales. A yield of that nature would, it is needless to say, be very satisfactory. The reports with regard to the Egyptian crop are also fairly encouraging. The area under cotton is estimated at about 2,000,000 acres, and the proportion devoted to Sakellarides is given as over 48 per cent., which is higher than was expected. From this quarter it would seem that a crop considerably larger than the previous one may be looked for. The Sudan cotton crop will again show a substantial increase, as will be the case in many other parts of the Empire where increased attention is now being devoted to cotton cultivation, but the time has not yet arrived when these crops can compensate for an appreciable decline in the production outside the Empire, though the rate of progress in the Sudan is little short of astonishing, and it is obvious that very soon an output of 100,000 bales may be looked for from that quarter. But if the Empire cotton yield is as yet small, if the yield of the Indian crop be excluded, it is very far from being negligible. From a trifle of 300 bales in 1902 the yield in Africa has risen to 167,000 bales for 1923, and for the coming season it may well be in the neighbourhood of 250,000 bales, which can only be regarded as a very substantial contribution to the world's supplies. Making allowance for regions that have not been specified, it would seem probable that the world's crops this year may be round about 23,000,000 bales, some distance below the total for 1914, but well above the figures for last year, and, it would seem, ample to safeguard us against any shortage in the coming year, though no more than that. It must be emphasised, however, that this estimate must, in the nature of things, be very largely of a hypothetical nature. There are too many "ifs" in the equation for any very certain result to be forthcoming. It is very possible, for one thing, that the crop yield may fall short of expectations, and, on the other hand, there is the inherent possibility that, as a result of the German settlement, world trade may deviate to the normal at a greater rate than would at present seem likely. The war taught us to take nothing as finite, but to accept change as an ever-present possibility, and so, in viewing the present situation with some degree of complacency, the satisfaction felt must inevitably be tempered with the knowledge that the unexpected may hap-

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895).
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and
General Re-insurance Company "BALKAN."
Capital: Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000.
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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pen. We have, at any rate, cause for congratulation that, so far as can be seen, a further interval is before us in which to press on with all possible vigour in the development of cotton cultivation in the Empire. Our aim must be to reach the margin of safety in home production which will remove us from dependence on the chances of production outside the Empire, and will enable us to view with equanimity reports of outside crops, whether they are good, bad, or indifferent. Until that end is accomplished there must be no halting, and it would be little less than tragic if we allowed a temporary increase in other crops to lull us into a feeling of security. The result of that would be to precipitate the shortage which even now it may not be possible to avoid, but which, if it comes, can be greatly alleviated from Lancashire's point of view if the fullest advantage is taken of the intervening period to push on with Empire production.

THE CLAY DEPOSITS OF PALESTINE.

The Geological Adviser to the Palestine Government, in a report on the clay deposits of the country in the Palestine *Commercial Bulletin*, states :—

The clay burning industry is still in its infancy in this country, and may be developed extensively, especially with regard to the roofing and flooring tile industry. The demand for this article is relatively large, and burnt clay roofing tiles from Marseilles are imported in considerable numbers. There also appears to be a large demand for good quality roofing tiles and ceramics in Syria, Egypt, and the Sudan.

The clays of this country may be classified as follows :—(a) Residual clays, (b) bedded clays, (c) marine clays and marls.

The soil of the limestone hills is derived from the solution of the limestone in carbonated waters in which the alumina, iron oxide, calcium phosphate, and a certain amount of silica and other compounds are insoluble. These substances, mixed with more or less fragments of limestone, form the basis of the soils in the hills, whether in terraces or in the valleys, and if not mixed with too much limestone are essentially clay soils. A certain amount of levigation or infiltration occurs during the winter rains, and it is from such a partly purified clay that the potter may get his material. They are not a very satisfactory source owing to the almost invariable presence of fragments of limestone. In addition to the residual clays occurring in situ or near their place of origin, there occurs on the plains bordering the hills large tracts covered with transported residual clays. These clay beds often attain considerable thickness and are of better quality than those in situ, but are variable in texture.

Bedded clays of fresh water origin belong either to recent Jordan beds or were laid down in the lakes existing during the pluvial period in the hill districts. The Jordan clays occur in the flooded flats bordering the bank, particularly in those parts where the river moves slowly and presents ground, when the river rises, suitable for the deposition of the clay. Much of this clay is fine and plastic and free from lime, but it is only suitable for the manufacture of earthenware goods owing to the amount of iron oxide present. They are also a long distance from any large centre. The bedded clays of the hills occur as terrace clays often high above the present level of the valley, and often at varying heights in the same locality. One of the best-known localities is at Kolonia near Jerusalem. The clay has a green to yellowish colour. It is ferruginous, and contains a certain amount of lime, but is free from coarse particles. After maturing it forms a plastic body, and is the favourite material for the Jerusalem potter. It suffers also from the disadvantage of containing a considerable amount of iron, so that the fired biscuit is red, and while used for producing very beautiful articles by means of highly coloured glazes, it is not suitable for crockery.

Those deposits generally known as loams in the geological maps have an extensive distribution, particularly in South-West Palestine. They vary in texture from almost a loess where mixed with blown sand to a fairly rich brown or black loam, which is the more northern type. Where the wadis have cut through the deposits, as in the Wadi Gaza, they exhibit 20 to 25 ft. in thickness, and may be considerably more. Their origin may have been in the flooded marshes of the low-lying shore during pluvial times. At present only the natural levigated portions are used for the common water vases, but there would appear to be a wide field open here for the manufacture of bricks if only a cheap fuel were available.

The uppermost marine deposit for 10 to 20 km. around Jaffa is a deep red argillaceous sandstone. In many parts there is sufficient clay to give plasticity for brick-making, and hence forms a second extensive bed of material suitable for this industry if cheap fuel could be obtained.

Some of the beds of the upper Senonian or later formations contain sufficient clay for them to be classed as marls, and while probably of no value for the potter's wheel, they could be used for moulding work. In the Nablus district marl clays exist which are sufficiently plastic to mould on the wheel, and when fired give a fairly white but friable biscuit. While these are not in favour with the present potters, it would appear that the body of the best tiles of the Mosque building period were made from a mixture of these marls with crushed quartz, which is found abundantly associated with the Mizzi Jehudi beds. The lime in this case was a beneficial element, for it enabled the furnace man to frit the body so as to form a hard biscuit on which he could fix his porcelain glaze, which has so well stood the wear of centuries. There is here, in following the lead of these ancient potters, with the use of local material, the making of an industry which would be unrivalled for the particular class of work which has become world famed.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The production of oil during August by the British Burmah Petroleum Co., Ltd., and the Rangoon Oil Co., Ltd., amounted to 59,379 barrels.

The surcharge levied in Yugoslavia when Customs duties are paid in paper or silver has been increased, as from September 1, from 800 to 900 per cent. Duties when paid in silver or paper currency are now, therefore, payable at the rate of ten silver or paper dinars to each gold dinar of the tariff. The surcharge on the luxury tax has been increased from 300 to 500 per cent.

A scheme is now being put into operation that will provide Prague with one of the most spacious fair grounds in Europe. Four large permanent pavilions of ferro-concrete and glass, an additional exhibit space of 60,000 sq. metres, a warehousing area of 30,000 sq. metres, a large modern hotel, a post office, a bank, and a wireless station are among the details of the scheme, the execution of which will occupy some three years.

Among the exhibits in the machinery section at the forthcoming Prague Samples Fair will be several branches which have not been represented at previous fairs. Textile machines of Czecho-Slovak make, for example, will occupy some 250 sq. metres of space. There will also be exhibits of American, Austrian, and German machinery for the leather and boot and shoe trades.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Good Demand for Maize.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Coffee.—A firm tone has ruled. East Indian has been done at 140s., an advance of 5s.; Santos is 2s. 6d. up at 102s. 6d.; while Costa Rica has come to business round about 150s.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair request. Tate's cubes at 46s. 9d., London granulated at 40s. 10½d., and Lyle's granulated at 41s. 1½d. are 6d. up. Foreign descriptions have been firm. West Indian crystallised is unchanged at 35s. 6d., White Mauritius is 4½d. up at 35s. 4½d., White Java is 1½d. up at 36s. 4½d., while Czech granulated at 39s. 3d. shows an advance of 6d. Futures are firm. Quotations are: October, 23s. 9d.; December, 21s. 3d.; March, 20s. 9d.

Maize.—There has been a good demand, and prices are a trifle higher on the week. La Plata has been done at 41s. 10½d. spot, at 42s. 7½d. for September-October, and at 43s. 9d. for December-January.

Currants.—Business has been very quiet, as is invariably the case on the threshold of the new season's trade. The market is very short of supplies, so that prices at the outset may rule high, but so far forward quotations are rather low.

Sultanas.—Samples have now arrived of the new crop of Smyrna sultanas. Prices for the fruit range high, and the effect has been to turn traders' attention to the Australian fruit.

Figs.—The market is very firm. The new crop appears to be of excellent quality, and it seems likely that prices will rule high.

Plums.—There is a good demand for this commodity, and prices are harder. Reports regarding the Bosnian crop are still unfavourable, and it seems probable that this fruit will play a small part in the market this season.

Oilcakes.—A steady tendency has prevailed. Linseed cake is unchanged at 280s., coconut cake is the same at 210s.; while cottonseed cake is unaltered at 185s.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been steady, Indian being 1½d. up at 22s. 6d., while La Plata is 6d. up at 21s. Rapeseed has been firm. Toria is 21s. 9d., while real bold Ferozepore is 22s. 6d. Cottonseed has been variable; Indian is 11s. 1½d., Egyptian black is 12s. 9d., while Sakellaridis is 12s. 1½d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed oil has been firm, closing at 43s. 3d. Rape oil has been firm, with crude at 48s. 6d., and technical refined at 51s. 6d. Cottonseed oil has been steady. Refined common edible is 50s., Egyptian crude is 44s., while deodorised is 51s. 6d.

In view of the termination of summer time in this country on September 21 and in France on the night of October 4-5, the train running in connection with the P. and O. Bombay express will leave Victoria at 12.50 p.m. on Thursdays, September 25 and October 2. Subsequently the express will be dispatched at 1.50 p.m.

The Governor of the State of the Great Lebanon has recently issued a Legislative Decree instituting a commercial register for the registration of merchants and companies, whether Lebanese, Syrian, or foreign. Registration is necessary in all cases, whether the head office is in the Lebanon or whether the business there is merely a branch or agency. The text (in French) of the Decree may be consulted by British firms interested on application to the Board of Trade (Commercial Relations and Treaties Department), Great George Street, London, S.W.1.

CZECHO-SLOVAK EXPORTS AND IMPORTS IN JULY.

The value of Czecho-Slovakia's imports in July was 1,229,526,645 crowns, slightly under the figure for June. Exports were some 15 millions under the June figure, with the result that the favourable trade balance of 96 million crowns in June has been reduced to one of 82 millions for July. The total favourable balance for 1924 to date is as follows:—Exports, 9,143,551,435 crowns; imports, 8,492,848,007 crowns—650,703,428 crowns. The main items of imports were (in millions of Czecho-Slovak crowns): Raw cotton and yarns, 227; grain, flour, pulse, 209; wool, woollen yarns, 133; cattle, 65; fats, 57; silk and silk goods, 53; animal products, 44. Other considerable imports included iron and hardware, timber and coal, flax, hemp and jute, common metals (36 millions), tobacco, chemicals, waste, mineral oils, leather, paints, dyes, perfumery, rubber, instruments, clocks and watches. Most of the items show a considerable increase on last year's figures.

Compared with the previous month, imports from the U.S.A. at 67 millions show an increase of 5 millions; those from England (41 millions) a decrease of 8 millions. For the period January to July imports have increased from every country except Switzerland.

THE AGRICULTURAL POSITION IN INDIA.

The following was the agricultural situation in India at the end of August. Rainfall was generally favourable; excessive on the west coast and hills in Madras, Lower Burma, and the greater part of Eastern Bengal, and parts of Northern Bengal. Cyclonic winds and torrential rains over the Western Ghats caused almost unprecedented floods, resulting in serious damage to houses, roads, bridges, culturable lands, fodder, stacks and crops. The extent of the damage is not yet fully estimated. Relief measures were organised in the affected areas, and reconstruction works are progressing. Rainfall was poor in the rest of the Madras Presidency. In Lower Burma crops were flooded by the heavy rains. The outlook for rice is still gloomy, and gives cause for anxiety. Floods in the Brahmaputra river have resulted in some damage to the paddy crop and jute in the lowland tracts of Bengal. Continuous and heavy rain has in most places in the United Provinces retarded agricultural operations. In Central India the outlook is promising, except the few parts where continuous rain has damaged the crops. Rain, though sufficient in some districts in the Punjab, was generally below normal. Rainfall was deficient in Orissa, Chota Nagpur, and Baluchistan. More rain is needed in the rice districts in the Central Provinces and in North-West Frontier Province, and in parts of Rajputana. Conditions and prospects of standing crops are, on the whole, satisfactory, except in the flooded tracts of Madras and Bengal. A sudden rise of the river necessitated premature harvesting of jute in certain lowland tracts of Eastern Bengal. The condition of jute is generally normal, but comparatively poor in South-Eastern Bengal. Prospects of the winter crop are favourable in Bihar, but in Orissa and Chota Nagpur this depends on future rains. The outturn of autumn crops in Bihar is expected to be below normal. The supply of food grains is, on the whole, sufficient. Prices are generally dear,

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with a tendency to rise in Madras, United Provinces, Bombay, Burma, Central Provinces, Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa. The jute market in Bengal has also risen sharply. Otherwise, prices are practically stationary. Fodder is adequate, except in parts of Madras and Bombay. The situation in Madras is being relieved by the free removal of grass from, and free grazing in, reserves, and grant of other concessions. The economic condition of the people is generally satisfactory. On the whole the agricultural outlook is satisfactory.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for July :—

Gum.

The exports during July via Port Sudan were as follows :—89 tons of bleached of the value of £E6,522, 1,734 tons of hashab of the value of £E73,133, and 180 tons of talh of the value of £E4,748.

Kordofan Province.—9,351 kantars of gum were sold in El Obeid market during the month, as against 16,029 kantars during July last year. The average price was 982 m/ms. per kantar. The 9,351 kantars include 3,208 kantars received from Nahud for sale and exclude 1,609 kantars already sold in Nahud and sent to El Obeid for re-sale The arrivals at El Obeid from Nahud, for checking, were 12,520 kantars, as against 7,099 kantars during the same month last year. The amount sold at Nahud during the month was 8,473 kantars, as against 5,135 kantars during the same month last year. The average price was 844 m/ms. per kantar. 155 kantars were sold at Um Ruaba at an average price of 858 m/ms. per kantar as against 238 kantars during the same month last year.

Cotton.

Blue Nile Province.—June : A small quantity of rain cotton, both Baladi and American, left the province during the month. It is estimated that 11,700 kantars of 315 rottles left the Blue Nile Province Stations during the season 1923-24 as follows :—American cotton grown in the Blue Nile Province, 5,000; Baladi cotton grown in the Blue Nile Province, 3,150; Baladi cotton grown in the White Nile Province and brought into Hassa Heissa, 500; half Baladi and half American cotton grown in Kassala Province, 1,200; the Fung Province, 1,850; total, 11,700 kantars. The Fung cotton is mostly bastard American descended from American cotton issued a few years ago. Last year the export of American cotton from Blue Nile Province amounted to 1,700 kantars. A small quantity of this cotton left the Blue Nile Province by boat, and it is probable a small quantity remains with the people or is being used locally, but the total crop cannot be far short of 5,500 kantars against approximately 2,000 in the previous year, when the rains were much better, although the seed issue was less. Seed issues were 550 bags of seed, of which a little was not sown. Assuming one bag is sufficient for 20 feddans, a yield of ½ kantar of 315 rottles is produced, against 1 kantar in the previous year, when rains were better. The seed issue arranged for the coming season is 3,200 bags (all that can be obtained), although the actual demand for seed exceeds this figure.

Bahr el Ghazal Province.—June : The Department of Agriculture is now superintending experiments in cotton growing in the Nuer, Eastern, and Rumbek districts. Cotton seed has been distributed to the tribesmen. An experimental area of 3 feddans, under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture, has been sown at Shambe. Cotton seed has also been distributed in Meridi district, and experimental areas have been sown in Yambio and Wau.

Kassala Province.—Sowing of rainland cotton still continues. The following distribution of cotton seed for rainland cotton has been made :—Gedaref, 27,202 rottles; Gallabat, 2,380 rottles; Mefaza, 25,500 rottles. Prospects to date are good, crops are expected to be normal. This does not include the large increase in rain cotton land, which is estimated approximately for the coming season at 6,983 kantars for the three southern districts. In the Gash Delta it is estimated that about 20,000 feddans will be brought under cotton cultivation this coming season. The watering of the land is proceeding on the three canals of Mekali, Magauda, and Hadaliya. The final distribution of land was made on August 1.

Mongalla Province.—June : A considerable quantity of cotton seed has been distributed in the province, and cotton sowing has started in the Moru district, where universal keenness is being shown. The people have grown an inferior type of cotton for their own use since the old slave trading days. Sowing has commenced in Yei district. Only a little sowing, mainly where the people practice irrigation, has been attempted in the Latuka district, owing to lack of rain.

Dougala Province.—June and July. Pumping Stations Reports. Gureir.—The total crop for the 1923-1924 season was 785 kantars, representing an average yield of 2.45 kantars of 315 rottles (unginned) per feddan. Ghaba.—July. 200 feddans of cotton are under cultivation. Cotton has germinated well and is healthy. It received its first watering on July 17. Nuri.—July. A small area of cotton has been sown, and preparation of land is well in hand.

Berber Province.—Pumping Stations Reports. Bouga.—Cotton sowing has started and received the first watering on July 31. Mikeilab.—Cotton sowing will begin on August 1, except at Dikka, where it will be sown later. Kitiab.—750 feddans of cotton are under cultivation. Cotton, on the whole, has germinated well, and the early sown has received two hoeings, three waterings, and is now being thinned. Absence of rains has considerably lightened the work of cleaning.

Dura.

Berber Province.—Mekeilab Pumping Station : 140 feddans of seifi dura are under cultivation. Bouga Pumping Station : 256 feddans of seifi dura are under cultivation.

Kordofan Province : 41 ardebs of dura Zinari were sold in El Obeid market during the month. The average price was £E1.125 m/ms. per ardeb.

The Fung Province.—June : 250 standard ardebs were exported from Singa and 269 ardebs were imported into Singa. The highest price per ardeb was 550 m/ms. and the lowest 450 m/ms. Forty standard ardebs were exported from Karkoj and 36 ardebs were imported. The highest price was 360 m/ms. and the lowest 300 m/ms. Eighty-six tons of dura were exported by rail from Makwar River Siding during the month. Arrangements have been made for the trial of quick-maturing dwarf dura supplied by the Department of Agriculture, and the results of the experiment will be watched with interest. If this dura could be successfully introduced a reasonable crop could be ensured in years when the late September rains, which are essential for maturing the ordinary dura crop, prove inadequate.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Further Decline in Futures.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended September 4, state :—

The market during the past week has been rather heavy. The net changes since Thursday last are : Sakellaridis, $0.73 down for November, $0.70 down for January, $0.32 down for March. Ashmouni, $0.80 down for October, $0.78 down for December, $0.55 down for February. The decline must be attributed to the continued liquidation of speculative bull positions. Speculators are disappointed at the failure of the expected big trade demand to materialise and, faced with daily increasing arrivals, they have been getting rid of their contracts; we think that the long position has now been reduced to comparatively small proportions. The week's receipts amount to 69,462 krs. against exports 83,477 krs.; the stock stands at 281,259 krs.

Spot.—Total sales this week amount to about 6,500 bales, of which we estimate 1,600 B/s Sakellaridis, 4,700 B/s Uppers, and 200 B/s Pilion.

Sakellaridis.—We have had, during the week, about 600 B/s of new crop arrivals, but the demand for this cotton has not been very active, and premiums for the good grades are down more than $1 from last week. With regard to the old crop, there is still some demand for fully fair to fully good fair; sellers appear rather more inclined to part with their cotton and prices of spot as compared with contracts are a little easier.

Lower Egypt Zagora.—About 600 B/s of new crop cotton of this variety have come down from the Interior, but sellers have not been able to find a ready market. The premiums paid are about on a parity with those for similar grades of Uppers.

Uppers.—Practically all the business transacted has been in the top grades, and with the daily increasing arrivals a fair supply of this cotton is now to be found on the market. Sellers have been anxious to maintain the premiums, but the lack of buyers at high prices has forced them to moderate their demands. A small turnover has been registered in fully fair to good fair.

Pilion.—The few new crop arrivals of this variety were quickly snapped up at prices ranging about two dollars dearer than corresponding grades of uppers.

Crop 1924.—Crop news is without much change. Our further inspection of the uppers crop confirms that it is by no means so good as it promised to be a month ago. Variable climatic conditions and insufficiency of water during the hot spells has caused rather heavy shedding and premature opening in some districts, whilst the pink boll worm attack in Middle Egypt has been heavier than usual. As a preliminary estimate, we think that the uppers yield per feddan will be less than last year by from 7 to 10 per cent. The Sakel crop is shaping satisfactorily, and the attack of pink worm is about normal.

The report of the Alexandria General Produce Association for the month of August reads :—

Lower Egypt.—The temperature experienced during the month of August has helped the early development and maturing of the bolls. Pink worm and boll worm have caused fresh damage; the number of bolls attacked varies from 10 per cent., according to the locality; it appears that the Zagora variety has suffered more than others. Morning mists have caused some damage of little importance. Watering has been carried out under normal conditions, although, early in the month, complaints were made on the subject of the difficulty of obtaining water. First picking, which is ten to fifteen days early, has commenced for varieties other than Sakellaridis, and will become general towards September 15. The crop, taken altogether, promises better results than last year.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—The high temperature during the month has hastened the ripening of the bolls. Some damage from attacks of pink worm and boll worm has been reported. First picking commenced about August 15; results obtained to date are good.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Better Reports from Near East.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended September 13 states :—

Business has not been so good during the past week. Both in Manchester and abroad the view appears to have prevailed that a lower range of values for raw cotton is imminent. Offers to manufacturers are adjusted accordingly, whilst the latter, being in a stronger position as a result of the increased activity recently, are presenting a firm front and endeavouring to retain for themselves the benefit of cheaper cotton. There are many indications, however, that requirements of Lancashire goods are on a considerable scale, and it is hoped that when the size of the American crop is finally determined, prices of raw cotton will stabilise and enable the business to be definitely secured.

Yarn.—There is still a shortage of supplies in certain counts, and spinners endeavour to make the most of it. Consequently, quotations are not reduced proportionately to the fall in raw cotton. There is little doubt, however, that in connection with most of the business which has been done some concession has had to be made. The question of increasing the number of hours worked in the American section is being discussed. Shipments of yarn in August amounted to 11,851,900 lbs., against 12,655,000 lbs. in July and 12,802,800 lbs. in August last year.

Cloth.—There has been a considerable inquiry, but, for the reason already mentioned, the number of orders booked has not been large. Comparatively small sales have taken place for India. In view of the state of affairs in China, it would have been reasonable to expect an absence of business for that quarter, but a small number of contracts have been placed. Reports from Egypt and the Near East are rather better. The home trade has operated a little more freely. Shipments of cloth last month amounted to 373,643,900 sq. yds., against 383,751,000 sq. yds. in July and 329,945,600 sq. yds. in August, 1923.

Raw Cotton.—The American Agricultural Bureau Report published on Monday last gave the condition of the crop as 59.3, and the estimated yield 12,787,000 bales. This was somewhat better than had been anticipated, and prices of American fell sharply. Private advices recently have been favourable, and there appears every prospect of ample supplies for the next twelve months. Egyptian cotton has been steady, and quotations are little changed.

Closing quotations yesterday were as follows :—American Middling, 14.21; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 24.80.

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LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Quiet Markets.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, in their report for the week ended September 10, state :—

Egyptian Futures.—The general tendency in this market has been towards a lower level since we last wrote, the proximity of a large and early crop and a general trade policy to abstain from purchases of weight till prices become more attractive being responsible for the rather heavy tone displayed. In addition to this, sentiment has been affected by favourable crop developments in the States, leading to a further fall in the value of American cotton.

The Alexandria market is beginning to show the effect of the crop movement, and has lost some of its premium over local values. At the moment, the difference is roughly 75 points (excluding shipping charges). Taking the November positions in the respective markets, probably a gradual readjustment will take place in the next two or three weeks. Meanwhile, we will attract the bulk of shippers' covering operations and speculative buying. Trade reports do not reveal any great activity, apparently all sections marking time in the full belief that ample supplies are assured and that later on values will reach a more tempting level. We still think that prices will decline gradually, but careful attention will have to be paid to spot differences, as a further widening between F.G.F. Upper and Sakel may reveal Novembers in a favourable light as a "take up" proposition against sales in the American market.

Egyptian Spot.—Markets have ruled quiet, and a very little buying power has been in evidence during the week. Pending the issue of last Monday's American Bureau report, spinners kept aloof in the hope that the figure to be published would have a "bearish" influence on the market. The figure of 59.3 proved to be slightly more than expected, but the general effect, as far as Egyptian cotton is concerned, has been practically nil. Reports of first pickings in Egypt have been satisfactory, and consignments of new crop (other than Sakel) are expected here in about a fortnight's time.

No unusual feature has shown itself in the daily inquiry, which has continued on much the same lines as has been the case during the past three weeks or so. That is to say, in Sakellaridis the better qualities at about 300 to 600 points on November have been in steady request, together with the lower qualities (say, from fair to good fair), the price for which has shown considerable irregularity, and bears little resemblance to the official quotations for similar grades. In uppers the "best" is repeatedly asked for by certain spinners, but when it comes to actual business the best (for want of better) has generally resolved itself into something like strict fully good fair—or hardly that. The basis for spot uppers on this market continues to sag, and although up to now Sakellaridis has maintained its position fairly well, with the result that the difference between the two has now reached over 500 points, it seems probable that with American cotton at 13.50d. it cannot maintain such a premium much longer, even with a comparatively limited supply coming from the new crop. This fact is being realised by those consignors and merchants who still have stocks of old crop Sakel unsold and who now are anxious to throw out the remainder without reserve.

In Sudan cotton a fair inquiry has continued, chiefly for the white variety, but here, as elsewhere, actual business has been strictly limited. A little fresh business has taken place in brown cotton. C.i.f. business has remained quiet. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 5th inst. were about 6,000 bales. Estimated sales, 1,800 bales Egyptians and 360 Sudan. Quotations of upper are reduced 125 points, with fair exceptionally 75 points lower. In brown all grades are reduced 100 points, with the exception of fair, which is 50 points lower only. In Sakellaridis good fair to extra fine are reduced 10 points, whilst fair exceptionally is 55 points lower on the week. F.G.F. Sakellaridis to-day 24.80d.

TEXTILES.

IF you wish to obtain your Textile goods from England at the lowest possible prices, communicate with K. JEBARA, 25, Princess Street, Manchester. (Established 1887).

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Dorsetshire for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 20).

Anchor Line.—S.s. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 25).

British India Line.—S.s. Mandala for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 26); s.s. Morvasa for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 27).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan MacBrayne for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, October 2).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Simla for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 30).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Mardinian for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (London, September 20).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 20); s.s. Tramore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 18).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London, September 19); s.s. Narkunda for Bombay (London, October 3); s.s. Khyber for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 4).

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Soap. — The Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 110 tons of hard soap to Egyptian Army Supply Stores, Tura. December 2.

Safes.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 75 money safes, iron. October 25.

The progress report of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Company for August states that the total crude oil production was 20,078 tons, and the throughput of the refineries 22,020 tons. The production for the eight months of the year has been 106,000 tons, which is in excess of the total production for 1923.

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THE SUDAN'S TRADE WITH ABYSSINIA.

The current issue of the monthly journal of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce contains the first part of a report on the Sudan's trade with Abyssinia. We give the following extracts :—

Although the Abyssinian market cannot be described as a profitable outlet for this country's merchandise, yet a fair trade has been carried on for some years in the purchase during the season at Gambela of hides, beeswax, and coffee, in exchange for cotton piece goods, Sudan salt, and Maria Theresa dollars; but, since 1920, the trade in hides has declined very much and in beeswax almost entirely disappeared owing to the limited demand and low ruling prices abroad. As a rough indication of the market, £E40,000 may be taken as an average year's exports and £E150,000 seems a fair figure for imports. Some trade is also done via Gallabat and Roseires, the total for these outlets being about £E30,000 for exports and £E50,000 for imports.

From the data we have been able to collect, and the reports of our correspondents, it does not appear likely that the improvement anticipated earlier in the season is likely to materialise. The imports of coffee were estimated at the beginning of the season at 55/60,000 kantars, which would have been a good year, but it is now realised that 50,000 is not likely to be exceeded, as better prices are being offered in Addis Abeba than in Gambela district. The reason of the improved market at Addis Abeba appears to be the growing difficulties of transporting goods from the interior to Gambela, due to bad roads and to the chiefs of the various districts interfering with the porters; in striking contrast to the very reasonable railway freight charges on the Ethiopian Railway and the short journey of only about four days between Addis Abeba and the port of Djibouti.

It is rumoured that the Abyssinian Corporation intends making a road from either Gore or Boure to Gambela, which, if correct, would do much to improve trade, but our correspondents agree that the first necessity is not so much improved roads, but better administrative methods, reduced taxation, and the introduction of a sound currency system.

The people in Western Abyssinia are very poor, and live a simple life. Their needs in the way of imported goods are consequently small, being mainly cotton sheeting, silk fabrics, and salt. Other articles imported are enamel ware, glass ware, foodstuffs and cotton yarn, but the outlet at Gambela for such goods is small and scarcely worth consideration. The imports of textiles to the country generally have fallen about 80 per cent. since 1913. Japanese grey sheeting holds the market, being 10 per cent. cheaper than American, although the latter is of better quality. Great Britain can compete neither in price nor quality, but Manchester holds its own in cotton yarn, striped white pieces, muslin and fancy textiles. A great variety of imports reaches the capital via Djibouti; such as French soaps, German locks and general ironmongery, French perfumery and tinned foods, Italian wines, fruits and macaroni and Scotch whisky for Europeans.

Piece goods serve a useful purpose in the Gambela trade in obtaining dollars at a slightly reduced rate. Salt, on the other hand, provides work for the carriers on their return journey—or did so rather, before the present scarcity of the dollar—and is necessary, therefore, to the trader in reducing costs on his coffee. Sudan exporters have an unhappy knack of over-estimating the local requirements in both these commodities, and the resulting competition on a market where supply exceeds demand is not profitable. Gambela is shut off from Khartoum for practically three parts of the year, so that traders are compelled to buy their stocks at stated times and thereby lose any subsequent fluctuations in their favour. Addis Abeba, on the other hand, is in constant direct touch with European markets, and its traders compete in markets as far distant from the capital as Gore. In the case of a decline in prices, the consequences to the Gambela trader are therefore serious, but he is at a disadvantage in any case owing to the freights by rail from the port to the capital being so much less than the charges between Port Sudan and Gambela. In this respect the Sudan Government might help trade greatly by lowering, if possible, the rates by the latter route.

The production of the Dacia Romano Petroleum Company for August was 870 tons.

The quantity of gold extracted from the mines in India during the month of June amounted to 37,068 ozs., valued at Rs. 22,51,292.

The production of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields at Gemsah for the week ended September 5 was 11 tons (previous week 7 tons), and at Hurghada 2,966 tons (2,831 tons).

The fourth International Danubian Fair, which has just come to an end, was better attended than any of its predecessors, the number of visitors amounting to 200,000. The exhibits were arranged in 18 sections, and among foreign exhibits were numbers from England, Holland, France, Austria, Germany, Hungary, and Roumania.

The Dacia Romano Petroleum Syndicate hope shortly to have three more wells at Moreni in production. No. 2 was plugged, and is now being cleaned; No. 3 is awaiting the final water test; No. 4 is down 685 metres; No. 1 has been flowing since June 2 at the rate of 2 to 3 cars per day. The wells at Chiciura and Baicoi are producing as usual. Drilling has also been commenced on newly acquired land at Moreni, and extensive drilling operations have been commenced at Bustenari and Runcu. The company hope soon to be able to reopen their refinery with their own production.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	248-251
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	327-332
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	23.66-23.68
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 15/32-1.5 17/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	89.80 89.90
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	835 845
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	340-350,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 15/32-1.5 17/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	815-830
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.45 7/16-4.46
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	83 85-83.90
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	148½ 149
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	101.80-90
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	605 615
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	316 320,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	—	23.10-23.30

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CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | **RESERVE - - - - £390,000**

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia:—
Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdah
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Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan)
Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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In Egypt the Bank's principal office is at Alexandria; but it also has agencies throughout the cotton-growing districts, and specialises in all operations connected with the moving of the cotton crop.

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Authorised Capital - - - - £600,000
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Reserve - - - - - - - - £170,000

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London Manager:—
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RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 18,103,997

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Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £340,000

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nazareth. MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta, Gibraltar.

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(Under Contract with His Majesty's Government.)

Steamer.	Tons.	London.	M'rse'ls.	Destination
*MALWA	11,000	—	Sept. 19	Straits, China, Japan
CALEDONIA	8,000	Sept. 19	Sept. 26	Bombay and Karachi
†KARMALA	9,000	Sept. 26	—	Straits, China, Japan
*MALOJA	21,000	Sept. 26	Oct. 3	Colombo & Australia
NARKUNDA	16,000	Oct. 3	Oct. 10	Bombay & Karachi
†KHYBER	9,000	Oct. 4	—	Colombo & Calcutta
*MANTUA	11,000	Oct. 10	Oct. 17	Straits, China, Japan
NALDERA	16,000	Oct. 17	Oct 24	Bombay & Karachi

* Taking passengers for Bombay, via Aden. † Calling at Malta.

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(Under Contract with the Govts. of India and Queensland.)

Steamer.	Tons.	M'bro.	London.	Destination.
MANDALA	8,246	—	Sept. 26	Bombay and Karachi
†MODASA	8,986	—	Sept 27	Madras and Calcutta
MADURA	8,975	Sept. 20	Oct. 2	East African Ports
¶†MALOJA	8,303	Sept. 20	Oct. 1	Bombay & Karachi
†NEVASA	9,071	Sept. 27	Oct. 11	Madras & Calcutta
MARGHA	8,258	Oct. 11	Oct. 24	Bombay & Karachi
*§POONA	7,626	Oct. 11	Oct. 25	Queensland Ports
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THE NEAR EAST

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No. 698.—Vol. XXVI. Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1924. Price 6d. Postage, 1d.

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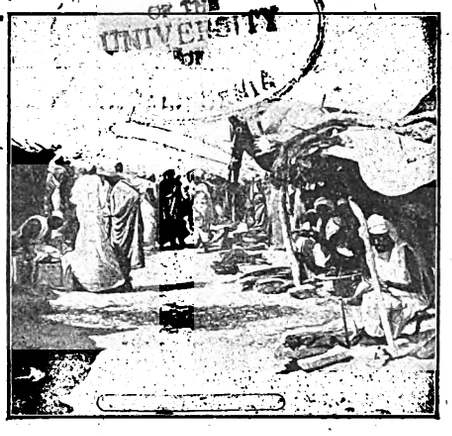

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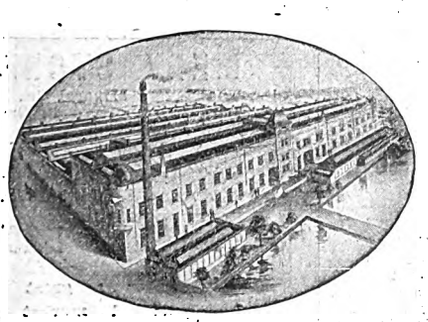

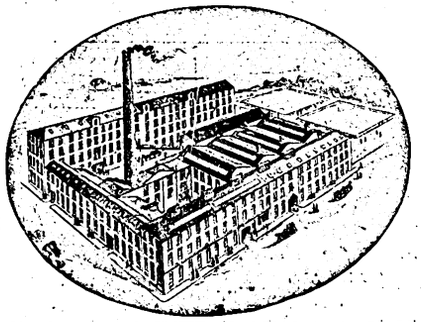

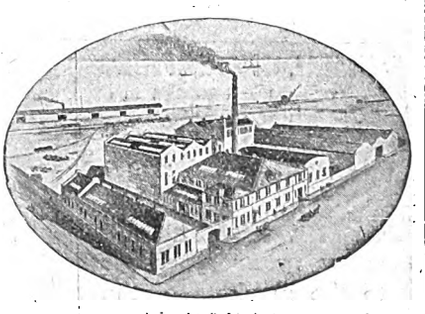

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No. 698—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Arrival of Zaghloul Pasha.

Saad Pasha Zaghloul is due to arrive in London as this week's issue of THE NEAR EAST goes to press. The intention is that he should explore with Mr. Ramsay MacDonald the various questions at present outstanding between Egypt and Great Britain. Nothing in the nature of formal negotiations is to be undertaken at first; but it is obvious that the course of the discussions will determine the fate of the negotiations. If, because he is unable to settle the Sudan question according to Egyptian wishes, Zaghloul Pasha should decide that it is useless to attempt a solution of the other problems, his empty-handed return to Egypt would be equivalent to the failure of formal negotiations. It is not possible to say what will happen in such circumstances, but it would be idle to ignore the direction in which general fears are running. Although eighteen months have passed since disturbances occurred in Egypt, the recent outbreaks in the Sudan suggest that the policy of violence may not have been altogether abandoned as a means of attaining political ends. Uneasiness on this point may seriously affect Egypt's material prosperity during the coming tourist season, although there may be no real ground for anticipating the worst. For this reason we hope that the informal discussions between Zaghloul Pasha and Mr. MacDonald will not only run smoothly and satisfactorily, but will also be finished quickly, and be soon followed by the formal negotiations in order that Egypt may settle down to normal conditions and confidence abroad may be completely restored.

The Mosul Question.

The question at issue between Turkey and Great Britain regarding the Iraq frontier came before the Council of the League of Nations last Saturday At the Constantinople conference between Sir Percy Cox and Fethi Bey it had been found impossible to devise any method for bridging the gulf between the Turkish and British points of view; Fethi Bey insisted that he had come to discuss the future of the Mosul vilayet, while Sir Percy Cox pointed out that the matter awaiting settlement was the delimitation of the northern boundary of Iraq. In view of this divergence of opinion, the first thing for the League's Council to decide is the exact scope of the question under reference. On this point Fethi Bey's presentation of the Turkish case on Saturday would not seem to have been particularly helpful; he repeated the old arguments that have already done duty at Lausanne and Constantinople to show why the Mosul vilayet should be Turkish, but he did not show that this matter was under discussion. Lord Parmoor, the British delegate, had no difficulty in showing that the wording of the Treaty of Lausanne clearly indicated that it was the frontier between Turkey and Iraq that had to be laid down in friendly agreement between Turkey and Britain. There was no question of the disposal of the Mosul vilayet, which had been administered as part of Iraq for nearly six years. Great Britain, he declared, could not regard the definition of a frontier as a question for a plebiscite as Turkey had suggested, quite apart from the physical difficulties in the way of holding a plebiscite and providing an adequate neutral force to maintain order. On the other hand, there could be no objection to the appointment of a commission to settle the dispute. The meeting was adjourned to enable the Council to study the questions further.

A Loan for Greece.

M. Tsouderos, Greek Minister of Finance, is at present in London in connection with the raising of a loan for the settlement of refugees in Greece. The International Commission responsible under the League of Nations for the establishment of the refugees on Greek soil has already received a loan of £3,000,000, the greater part of which has been expended, and it is anticipated that a further sum amounting to £8,500,000 may ultimately be required. The total amount of the loan authorised by the League last year was £6,000,000. It is one of the objects of M. Tsouderos's visit to see whether he can gain support for the increase of this amount to £10,000,000. There can be little doubt that the success of his mission and the satisfactory establishment of the refugees would be a permanent boon to Greece. Already a Greek carpet industry is springing up at the expense of

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the Turkish republic, which deliberately expelled its carpet workers.

Murder Run Riot.

The death of Todor Alexandroff has been the signal for an orgy of murder in the Macedonian Organisation. An attempt is being made to represent Alexandroff as the first to start the grim sequence of assassinations, and he is even credited with having spread the news of his own death in order to justify the subsequent crimes. Europe, in a matter of this kind, will not feel called upon to take sides. What interests it more than the method of settling Macedonian disputes is the nature of the dispute. In the present instance we have ample evidence that the Macedonian Organisation found itself at the parting of the ways; for years it had been pinning its faith on the intervention of the Western Powers, but they refused to give any help to or to take any notice of Macedonia. Then arose a school of thought which decided that the only chance of help lay with Russia—a contention that the Soviet Government was quick to endorse. Alexandroff blocked the way and was removed. It remains to be seen whether Communists or anti-Communists among the Macedonians will win the day. The lesson for the West and for the Balkan States is clear enough. They may deny as vehemently as they like that there is any Macedonian question, but the Bolshevists will take good care that there is a Communist question in its place. If the new Yugoslav Government has the least glimmer of statesmanship in it it will take care that the devotion of the Macedonian people to their Balkan heritage is not superseded as a result of the denial of the right of self-determination by the disintegrating doctrines of Communist tyranny.

The Wahhabis.

The capture of Taif in the Hejaz by Wahhabis is now seen to be part of a deliberate move of Sultan Ibn Saud of Nejd against King Hussein. According to the Sultan's spokesman in Damascus, the attack was made in response to the wishes of the Moslem world, especially of the Moslems of India—a strange theory in view of the fact that the Wahhabis regard themselves as having little in common with co-religionists who do not share their tenets. It is true, however, that there is a common link for all Moslems in the Mecca pilgrimage in connection with which remarkable unanimity seems to prevail regarding the inadequacy of the arrangements made by the Hejaz authorities. For the moment the invaders have not attempted to advance beyond Taif. The statement has been made that they will not actually attack the Holy City, but will try to expel King Hussein by showing themselves outside his capital. If the latter has any chance of holding his ground the delay in the Wahhabi advance ought to prove of great service to him. Failure to take advantage of it will confirm the belief that military matters, as well as administrative affairs in general, in the Hejaz are in a parlous condition.

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The Georgian Rising.

The fear to which expression was given in these columns last week that the Bolshevists would be able by sheer weight of numbers to suppress the rising in Georgia would seem to be in process of being realised. During the last few days the Red armies are reported to have made considerable headway against the insurgents. Kutais and Tiflis have been recaptured, and the fighting is now for the most part of the guerilla order. Everywhere the Soviet Government is exacting the most ruthless reprisals in the belief, it must be supposed, that their only chance of maintaining their hold on power is by making a fearful example of those who are rash enough to challenge their tyranny. The whole episode is nauseating, the more so because the very Government that seemingly does not hesitate to resort to wholesale butchery to save its own skin has only recently been invited to enter into friendly conference with the British Government, which appears to have allowed itself to be impressed by the unctuous attitude of the Soviet delegates. The Moscow Government cannot be accused of not having nailed its colours to the mast; the trouble is that with the lapse of time—a very short time, as it happens—the impression had got abroad that those particular colours had been hauled down. If it was the case, they have been very quickly run up again at the first opportunity in Georgia. Even the extension of the insurrection to Azerbaijan is hardly likely to bring relief to the Georgians.

Communal Tension in India.

The news from India continues to be dominated by manifestations of religious and communal bitterness. Taking together the actual outbreaks of violence reported by the cable and the far more numerous cases in which disorder has been successfully averted by the efforts of the Administration, we are bound to conclude that the tension is now greater than at any time since the proclamation of the Indian Empire. The utterances of responsible leaders leave no room for doubt that the principal cause of this tension is the minorities' fear of undiluted Hindu rule. The politicians' insistent demand for the elimination of the British element in the Administration has, in fact, produced the inevitable result, fear, rising rapidly to panic terror of what the politicians would do when they should become masters of the country, and already the suggestion is being made that Moslems would be given the option between perversion and expatria-

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tion, or that the history of Spain may shortly be repeated in India. Such ideas would, of course, be utterly abhorrent to many Hindus, but not to all, and the important fact is their actual existence rather than their logical foundation; very many Moslems believe that their religion would suffer under Hindu rule. and the belief is a fact with which statesmen have to reckon.

The Moslem Claim.

A good idea of the Moslem position is furnished by the accounts of Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad's recent campaign in the United Provinces. The doctor, known hitherto as a distinguished scholar and educationist, has been impelled to take to the platform, and the resolutions passed at his meetings insist that Moslem interests must be safeguarded before any further instalment of reform is granted, or, in the alternative, that the country should go back beyond the days—now almost forgotten—of Lord Morley's embryo Councils. The safeguards demanded are of the familiar type, reservation of sufficient seats on all public bodies, separate electorates, an adequate share in all public services, special facilities for education, guarantees of religious liberty, and a communal veto on general legislation. The last item, by the way, is closely related to the idea of a Tribunate which, as we recently indicated, has been put forward for the protection of the depressed classes of Hindus, but the whole programme may fairly be described as the negation of that national unity which Hindu politicians so confidently assume. To say so much is not, however, to condemn the programme, some items of which are, in our judgment, indispensable; its formulation is a measure of the distance which separates us from a homogeneous India.

Servants of India.

On the same day we read of the death of two men who, in very different ways, had given their best to the service of India. Sir Thomas Holderness passed nearly half a century, first in the Civil Service and then at the India Office, of which he was the permanent head for seven years. By general consent he was almost the ideal chief of a large public office, loyal to his political superiors, at once firm and considerate to his subordinates, resourceful and calmly efficient in his conduct of business. Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu was a self-made man who first achieved prominence as an agitator in the days of the partition of Bengal, and then took the long step upward to constructive statesmanship, serving first on the Secretary of States Council, and more recently as a member of the Government of Bengal. Like other Indians who have taken the same step, he had to bear a certain amount of ill-will from former associates, and a measure of that jealousy which is one of the most unpleasant features of Bengal politics, but he continued to work for progress on reasonable lines, and, if we may judge from his latest public utterances, he remained hopeful to the end. an example which ought to be of exceptional value in the India of to-day.

Sir Henry Dobbs, High Commissioner for Iraq, who left Cairo on September 16 for Baghdad, by air, arrived there the following day.

The memorial service for Todor Alexandroff, the murdered Macedonian leader, held on September 18 at Sofia, was attended by 20,000 people. All the shops were shut, and many houses were draped in black. It was announced after the service that the murderers of the dead leader had been caught by the Macedonian Organisation, and had been put to death.

The following announcement is issued by the Turkish Minister in London:—"In view of the coming into force of the Peace Treaty, the Turkish Government begs to notify those whom it may concern that, in accordance with the Treaty of Lausanne, a period of two years has been granted to all residents in ex-Turkish territories to decide whether they desire to retain their Turkish nationality."

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Russian Treaty.

If the cynic were minded to find an example of how completely lost that national outlook which was developed during the War has become, he could not do better than point to the Liberals' wavering over the Russian Treaty. Even the leaders of Liberalism, he would point out, blow at once hot and cold over this proposed Treaty with Soviet Russia; they assert that they are completely in agreement in opposing it, but, he would note, few people believe that that agreement is the result of independent examination. They are merely jockeying for position, although all their horsemanship is of no avail, for they can arouse the enthusiasm of the punters neither by supporting nor by opposing the Russian Treaty and Loan.

The truth is that in this Russian business there is little beyond party interests at stake. Some observers imagine that it would be a fine thing for the Labour Party to go to the country on in the November election, for which the Liberals are supposed to be pressing, but it is difficult to see how passionate defence can be entered upon over such nebulous things as are contained in the Treaty to Russia. Logically speaking, there is a good deal to be said for the attitude which the Premier has adopted towards Russia, but the factors that would count in an election—Soviet atrocities, Soviet attitude towards religion, Soviet oppression of Georgia, and so on—would all redound to the benefit of the anti-Bolshevists. In other words, the Tories would on balance have the better case. The poor Liberals, of course, some of whom are as honest as daylight, have none at all that would appeal to the democratic mind.

Preparing for Battle.

There is now in the political world a sense of coming conflict, although that sense is as yet confined to the organisers of the various parties. Nobody seems keenly to want an election this year—the handful of Liberals who in this connection are bent on suicide do not count--but all parties appear to be afraid of one. The Conservative Party, indeed, is taking the drastic step of trying to enlist, not working-class support, but working-class guidance, and there is at the moment a great cry about the necessity of "Labour Conservatives." This is, of course, very laudable, but one would be more

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convinced by it if one felt that it was more the outcome of principle than the result of fear. The feeling that expediency is directing the present path of the Conservative Party is very deep. One will admit one's error when one sees Conservative working men offered safe seats in by-elections by the Conservative Central Office. Previous experience of Conservative working-class candidature does not warrant much hope that this belated plan to steal thunder from Labour will succeed.

When the Gods Laughed.

It was commonly assumed, when the Labour Party entered office, that a period of dullness had descended upon the gods on high Olympus, who used—so it was said—to feed principally upon the frailties and follies of our politicians. No one so much as they regretted the passing of a certain impetuous Premier who was wont to deal out honours in generous and sometimes coincident fashion, and no one less than they suspected that they would find matter for mirth in the private dealings of a Labour Premier.

But frailty or folly inevitably attends sooner or later the noblest minded of our politicians; and even Labour and Socialist journals are aghast at the revelations which have been made over Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's receipt last spring of £30,000 from Mr. Alexander Grant, who three months later was made a baronet. Some journals demand the Premier's demission; others announce it; and others fain would prevent it.

This is all a little premature. If the Marconi scandal could not bring about the removal of Mr. Lloyd George and certain of his compeers, there is small point in demanding for this much smaller Grant affair the head of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. To talk as if the Premier's career were already at an end is very affecting; it argues a belief in the righteousness of parliamentary human nature that is in these days amazing. And the attempt to prevent the fall of the Premier comes about from possession of the fact that Labour lacks limelit leaders in an unsuspected degree.

The wisest attitude to take would appear to be that one must remember, whatever party be in office—the records of all parties are stained beyond forgetting—that politicians are always politicians, the more so when, as Labouchère said of Gladstone, it is God who has placed cards up their sleeve, and especially to remember that economic power precedes political power. If the Olympians were asked who was the more powerful man—Mr. Ramsay MacDonald or Sir Alexander Grant—their quick reply would probably be an unmistakable and yet pitying smile.

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The All-Blacks.

The Rugby season opened properly on Saturday, although important games had been played earlier. September is really too soon for the county sides to get together, and already Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset have succumbed to our visitors from New Zealand, the All-Blacks. According to most accounts, they are not the equal of the wonderful fifteen of 1905, but they must be good to have beaten, on strange grounds and in unfamiliar conditions, even such scratch sides as represented the South-western counties.

The England cricket team for Australia has already sailed, and, except for a few gallant clubs who carry on bravely to the end of this month, football and hockey are reigning. Public attention will concentrate on the doings of the All-Blacks here and of our cricketers in Australia. By no means a bad winter to look forward to!

Daylight Saving.

Last Sunday that which the Government servants, who, of course, are above all merely climatic considerations, have called "summer time" came to an end. Opinion is still divided on the wisdom of cutting summer time short by a fortnight, but in any case we have all had our extra hour's sleep now. Workers who get up early in the morning welcome the reversion to "real time," but there are those who would like a full six months of summer time. It really is impossible to have a decided opinion on the matter. If one could reasonably expect to see the sun in the summer, we would alter our clocks every week to suit its convenience. But one cannot.

Alter Ego.

A PIANIST FROM PALESTINE.

Mr. Arié Abilié, the well-known Palestinian pianist, gave a pianoforte recital, including works of Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, and Debussy, as well as of modern Jewish composers, at Jews' College, Guilford Street, W.C.1, last Sunday evening under the auspices of the Anglo-Palestinian Club. Mr. Abilié was accorded a rousing reception.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Over 2,000 Jewish immigrants entered Palestine during August.

Sir Paul Chater has given a cheque for £1,000 to the Lord Mayor's Armenian Relief Fund.

M. Duca, the Roumanian Foreign Minister, returned to Bucharest from Geneva last week.

Mr. Lindsay, the British diplomatic representative, returned to Constantinople on September 18.

A disastrous cinema fire, due to the igniting of the film, is reported from Smyrna, in which more than 100 persons are stated to have perished. Among the victims is the sister-in-law of Ismet Pasha.

Lord Thomson, Minister for Air, started on September 17 on his tour of inspection of the R.A.F. units in the Middle East and Iraq. He travelled overland from Calais to Trieste, and then by boat to Egypt. From Cairo he proceeds by aeroplane.

The rearrangement of the Central Asian administrative areas by the Soviet is to be ratified at the beginning of October, and the Governments of the new Uzbeg and Turcoman Republics and of the autonomous regions of Kara-Kirghiz and Tajik will begin to function in November.

Mr. Thomas Griffiths, M.P., Treasurer of the Household (Labour), Mr. A. T. Davies, M.P. (Unionist), and Dr. J. H. Williams, M.P. (Labour) arrived in Baghdad last week by special overland motor-car convoy from Beyrout. They will study the oil question and will visit the Anglo-Persian oilfields.

The destruction of 102 villages, hundreds of deaths, and considerable material damage are reported in a message to Constantinople from Erzeroum as a result of the earthquake which occurred on September 13. The Turkish Government and the Red Cross despatched immediate assistance.

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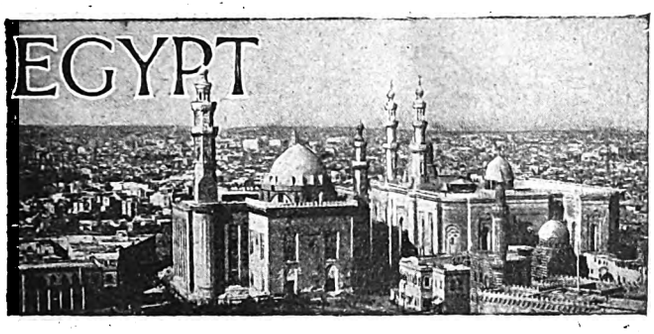
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, September 13.

The London "Conversations."

A week ago Egypt was in the depths of despondency owing to the fact that Zaghloul Pasha had cabled to say that he had decided to abandon negotiations, and that, if his health permitted, he was returning to Egypt on the 17th inst. To-day everyone is correspondingly hopeful, as it is now known that a meeting has after all been arranged between Mr. MacDonald and Zaghloul Pasha, and that they will meet in London on or about the 25th inst.

The State of Cairo.

Those returning to Cairo after a short visit to Alexandria would be pardoned if on driving through the capital they came to think that it was suffering from the effects of a serious earthquake. On inquiry, however, they will find that what they see is not due to any climatic disturbance, but to the deliberate action of the Tanzim authorities. It follows so closely the departure of Mr. Haswell, who for many years ably held the post of Director-General, and whose retirement as a result of the treatment he had received is openly condemned by high-placed Egyptians as well as Europeans, that one is constrained to wonder whether those who have succeeded him are indulging in an orgy in celebration of the emancipation of their department from British control.

Joking apart, however, Cairo is to-day in a most scandalous condition. There is scarcely a street that is not under repair of some sort—repair that is being carried out in no ordered manner, but higgledy-piggledy, so that one's conveyance has to thread its way as through a maze, while streets that are not "up" have sidewalks encumbered with débris of every description. On such a large scale have operations been started that it will be a positive miracle if everything is finished for the season. To crown it all, the city is now in a permanently filthy condition, utterly unlike the good old days, but strangely reminiscent of the period in the early part of 1919, when, in order to help refute Lord Curzon's unfortunate statement that "the Civil Service in Egypt is, at any rate, loyal to us," the scavengers of Cairo were persuaded to go out on strike for three weeks.

Far be it from me to want to "crab" thus early in their career the work of those now responsible for the municipal supervision of the capital, but the matter is so serious from a public health point of view, and a continuation of this neglect of the hygienic control of the streets can so easily, and will most certainly, lead to epidemics, that it is in the public interest that I make this indictment of the municipal authorities of Cairo, which has now lost the great reputation it used, by common accord, to have of being a model city in respect of cleanliness.

Atef Barakat Pasha and Makkabati Bey.

The Cabinet came to Cairo this week in order to attend the commemoration of the death of Atef Barakat Pasha, Under-Secretary for Education, which took place some three weeks ago. At that time pressure on my space prevented me from commenting on the passing of this well-known and capable Egyptian, who was certainly one of the hopes of New Egypt. Already in the short time he had been Under-Secretary he had done much to promote the development of education on rational lines, which promised well for the future, and the impression he gave when he came to the Chamber of Deputies to answer questions on the Budget of his administration was certainly an excellent one. To the Wafd he will be as much a loss as the death of Abdel Latif Bey Makkabati, who died last week, will be to the Liberal Constitutionals. Makkabati Bey had at one time been a member of the Wafd, and he was, in fact, one of the "four" who brought back to Egypt the Milner Memorandum in 1920 and reported to Zaghloul Pasha in Paris the feeling in the country. Later he disagreed with Wafd methods, and joined the Opposition under Adly Pasha, later assisting to form the Liberal Constitutional Party. He was a strong character, intelligent, courageous, and of an extraordinarily frank disposition, and his death at this early age is a loss not only to his party but also, as time will prove, to his country. It is, indeed, unfortunate that in such a short time Egypt should have lost two such valuable sons.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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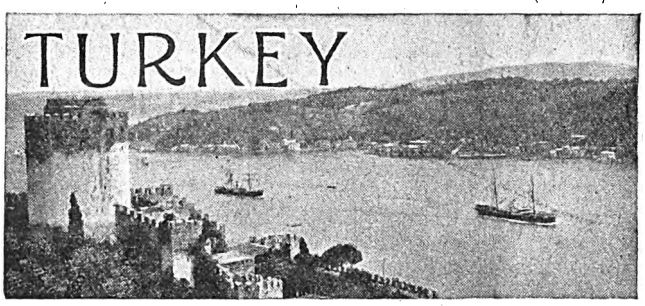

Constantinople, September 7.

The Re-opening of the Assembly.

All sections of public opinion are awaiting with impatience the reopening of the Assembly in October after its six months' vacation, and the general feeling is that there will be wigs on the green. It is felt that the vacation has done a great deal towards promoting the disintegration of the Government majority, a process which had begun some months ago. Some go so far as to predict the speedy fall of the present Government. The feeling of the unbiassed foreigners who are closely following the course of events here is by no means unanimously in favour of a political upset. There are already signs, "no bigger than a man's hand," of the development of a saner frame of mind, even under the régime of this much execrated Government.

September 16.

The Ghazi's Passage through the Bosphorus.

The last week or ten days have been fertile in events of some local importance and interest. The two most significant incidents have been the passage of the Ghazi Pasha through the Bosphorus on his way from Mudania to Trebizond, and the deadlock in the Exchange of Populations Commission between the Greeks and Turks concerning the interpretation of the terms of the Treaty on the question of the categories of Greeks resident in Constantinople who are due for exportation.

The passage of Mustapha Kemal through Constantinople without stopping has been the subject of the most bitter comment in local circles; it has done more than any other incident to bring out into the light of day the hostility between the new and the old capital. The local Press considers the President's action as a graceless insult to the town and its population, and the tone of the comments is more hostile to the person of the President than any journal has yet ventured to use. It is freely rumoured that official fears for the safety of the Pasha's person are the real reason which prevented his landing, and there are numerous circumstantial stories about organisations of subversive elements in the town which are keeping the police and the military authorities in a perpetual state of ferment. Although it is perfectly evident to any resident that there is a strong current of uneasiness about public order at the present time, the action of the President is much more likely to be due to the habit of mind of Angora to send Constantinople to Coventry than to any personal fears. It is important, but regrettable, to note that that habit of mind is still a dominant factor in Turkish internal policy.

Exchange of Populations.

The trouble in the Exchange of Populations Commission has arisen over the interpretation of the clause which exempts certain categories of Ottoman Greek inhabitants of Constantinople from exchange. The Turkish attitude is, shorn of all technicalities, to get rid of as many Greeks as can possibly be squeezed in under the terms of the clause in question; the Greek attitude is naturally to interpret the clause in the opposite sense. The neutral members of the Commission have apparently tried to find a formula to reconcile the irreconcilable, to which the Greeks, as clever diplomats, have adhered, whereas the Turks, both in the Commission and in the Press, have merely indulged in a fanfaronade of "firmness." Tewfik Rushdi Bey, the chief delegate, resigned, but Angora refused to accept his resignation; we may, therefore, conclude that the Turkish Government is looking a little further ahead than the rather short-tempered men who were bandying hard words across the green cloth the other day, and then going out and telling the journalists all about it. One would have thought that the experience of the Turkish State during the past year would have inculcated a wiser view of the value of the politically cowed Greeks to Turkey than appears to be held by many Turks.

A Polish Exhibition.

An interesting event in the economic life of Turkey was the opening last Friday on the quay of Tophané of a Polish Trade and Industrial Exhibition. It is a very modest affair to those who have been debauched by Wembley. It consists of three or four tastefully-arranged pavilions of Polish products, one pavilion of Turkish exhibits, and some machinery and railway material in the open. The intrinsic importance of the exhibition is not great, and with the exception of the agricultural machinery and the arms and munitions—of which there appears to be a disproportionate quantity—there does not seem to be much in the exhibition which Turkey could not buy in several other countries with which communications are easier. The enterprise of the Polish State in arranging the exhibition is, however, most praiseworthy, and it has been well carried out. In addition, lovers of music owe a great debt to the Polish authorities for sending the magnificent band of the 36th Regiment to play at the exhibition; its playing is one of the few musical treats we have had since the Armistice.

Embellishment of Constantinople.

Our local municipal administration is still dividing its time between the composition of grandiose projects of embellishment of the city and personal recrimination between past and present prefects, past and present valis, and so on. The latest bee in the municipal bonnet is a competition for a prize of a thousand liras for the best scheme of embellishment of the city so that it shall attract floods of tourists. Brilliant ideas of boulevards, casinos, parks, bands, and what not are being aired on all sides, and one is left with the impression that these men are propos-

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ing to turn this wonderful city into a sort of Blackpool or Margate. It does not seem to have soaked into the minds of one of them that nothing has yet been done to simplify and organise on a civilised model the reception of tourists at the port when they arrive: nobody has thought of staffing the passport control with a set of smart, young, well-dressed men who speak some foreign language and can examine a passport quickly and decisively; nobody has thought of putting a capable, decisive gendarme officer with an intelligent force of gendarmes to cow and keep in order the appalling crowd of insolent and rapacious boatmen; nobody has seen to it that the one or two main streets of Pera are safe for civilised people to use after eight o'clock in the evening without the risk of encountering the worst *canaille* of the lowest slum quarters; nobody has sufficient push to see that the time-tables of the steamboats and railways and the names of the stations and landing-places are printed in European figures and characters. Before our municipal fathers amuse themselves in sketching chimerical projects for which no money is likely to be available for years, they would do well to carry through some few elementary reforms on the lines suggested above, for which they would gain the thanks of the tourist and casual visitor, who is not amused by gratuitous difficulties when on holiday and business, and who is sure to carry home an exaggerated tale of the unpleasant side of his experiences here.

HEALTH AND PLEASURE.

The Cure at Chatel Guyon.

By H. CHARLES WOODS.

Châtel Guyon, September 20.

Readers of THE NEAR EAST, so many of whom know those climates which are less favourable than our own, may or should be interested in Châtel Guyon and its cure, if only on account of the natural attractions of this place.

Situated in the Auvergne, and therefore in the centre of France, the place lies at a distance of some 260 miles to the south of Paris. With an elevation of rather over 1,200 feet above the level of the sea, it is possessed of a fresh invigorating climate, responsible even at this late season of the year for warm dry days with fresh and even cool nights. The village and bathing establishments lie among or rather on the edge of hills, the lower slopes of which are covered with vines and the higher summits of which are well wooded with oak, pine, and chestnut. The visitor, therefore, who desires to walk, to drive, or to make excursions by motor is provided with favourable opportunities for so doing; for whereas it is possible for almost everybody to summon energy to wander on foot in the charming valleys des Prades and de Sans-Souci, the more energetic among us can walk to the magnificent Chateau de Chazeron, which was recently purchased and has now been beautifully restored by M. Léouzon Le Duc—the famous Paris barrister. By private motor or by means of the numerous conveyances which make excursions it is easy to visit such places as Vichy, Clermont-Ferrand, Le Puy de Dome, Mont Dore, Royat, and other resorts which are too numerous to mention.

The town is served by a branch of the main line from Paris to Clermont-Ferrand, which lies distant about twelve miles. At the top of the main street, which takes its name (Avenue Baraduc) from a former famous doctor, one comes to the park, which measures about half a mile in length, and which lies in a hollow, through which a small stream ripples by day and by night. Here are situated two large bathing establishments, five principal wells, a casino, and numerous small shops, most of which are installed in small wooden buildings. This park, which is well shaded and provided with countless winding paths and an attractive display of flowers (somewhat damaged this year by the August bad weather), is backed by the pine-covered Chalusset (a rocklike hill), up which one wends one's way between many a glass of water. Situated around this park, too, are the principal hotels and the houses of several among the twenty-six physicians who spend their summers in caring for the between 10,000 and 12,000 men and women who come here to do the cure from all parts of the world each year. Indeed, so cosmopolitan is the place, which is visited by Algerians, Egyptians, Turks, Armenians, Indians, South Americans, and by those belonging to most of the worlds, that one may talk in any language in which one is the most familiar. Indeed, sitting round a table the other evening we were a distinguished Frenchman, a Dutch lady (who is the widow of a famous Italian senator), an Armenian from Russia, and a Circassian lady who once had her home in the same country. At another moment one is talking to an Irishman from the Argentine, a Greek from Salonika, a Portuguese from Tangier, and so on. Thus to mention the names of the Maharaja of Kapurthala, Princess Emma Ismail (sister of King Fuad), Prince Kemal el Dine Hussein, General Moukhtar Pasha, the Brazilian Ambassador in Paris, Frederick Dixon Pasha, Madame Emin Pasha, Baroness Myriam de Rothschild, Madame Omar Sultan Pasha, Professor Bayet (of Brussels), General and Mrs. Macdonald, Ismail Abazza Pasha, Mrs. Swinburne, Ratib Bey, Madame Souher de Souzenburg, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Martin, is only to refer to a few of the well-known people who are or have been here this year.

With regard to the complaints for which

(*Continued on page* 321.)

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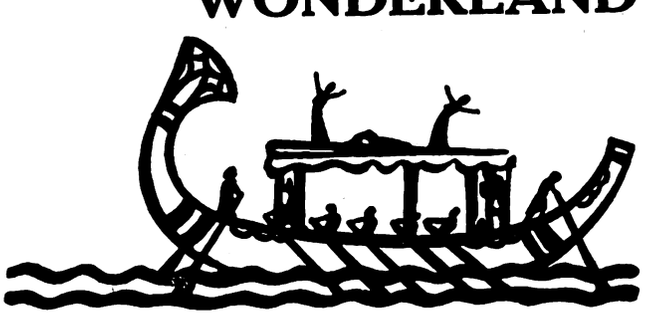

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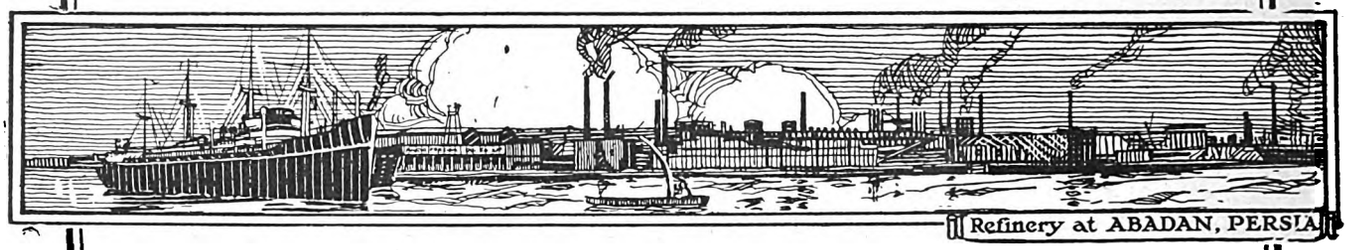

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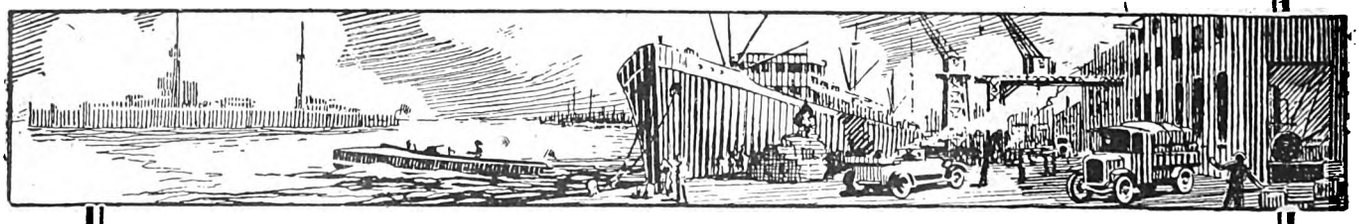

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Chatel Guyon is beneficial and to the actual cure, it would be out of place to enter into details here. Nevertheless, it should be stated that the diseases which arise from residence in hot climates, from unhealthy food, and from impure water are especially suitable for treatment at Chatel Guyon, and that the after effects of typhoid, dysentery, and malaria are often obliterated by remedies which include the disinfection of the intestines and the stimulation of the liver. The cure, which varies very much in different cases, consists in drinking small quantities of tepid iron-tasting water at intervals during the day and of having various baths. The most common of these is that generally called the running water bath. It is taken in separate cabins or bathrooms, and in the naturally warm water of the place, which comes in at the bottom and flows out at the top of the bath, thus securing an even temperature and always circulating water during the some twenty minutes for which the patient is immersed. At the end of this bath there is generally a "*Douche Sousmarin*," when the patient is sprayed with a hose of hotter water whilst he or she still lies in the running liquid. Over and above this there are poultices of hot mineralised mud, applied either dry or in a bath—poultices which draw the inflammation out of the section of the body to which they are applied. Moreover, among many other treatments it has now become the fashion here to order the visitor to eat "Yaghourt," which is widely advertised as being made according to the Bulgarian system. And last, but far from least, whilst the matter naturally depends upon the tastes and requirements of the visitor, at the present time a cure at Chatel Guyon can probably be accomplished for about 1,200 francs, including accommodation in a modest hotel. To this must be added, say, another 300 francs for a second-class hotel, and as much more as is desired for residence in the two houses which may be described as first class in every way.

The season lasts from May 1 to October 15, but, owing to the climate and to the overcrowding at its height, the best periods to be here are either between May 20 and June 15 or in the earlier part of September. The communications are good, for whereas Paris can be reached by through train in less than eight hours, the connections with Marseilles, Geneva, Lyons, and Milan, and thence with the Simplon-Orient Express, are excellent. Moreover, in addition to the fact of the existence of hotels suitable to the pocket of every visitor, I think that, on the whole, and speaking from the experience of three visits, the management of the "Etablissement" is well conducted, and that the interests of the invalid are well cared for. But, considering the price to which the cure has necessarily been put up, I think that the introduction of certain minor improvements would constitute a great attraction to visitors, especially to those who come from England or who have already done "cures" in some of Europe's famous watering-places. For instance, without undue expense, something might perhaps be done to provide a covered promenade, where the visitor could walk or sit, the bathing establishments ought to be enlarged, the *personnel* might be better supervised, and clocks should be put up at least in various parts of the park, if not actually in every bath-room, since the whole cure here must be carried out to time. With these minor criticisms, coupled with the suggestion that Chatel Guyon should be made much better known to the outer world than it is at present, I can only repeat that the cure is excellent for the purposes for which it is intended, that the place is a quiet and homely one where everybody can secure the rest and tranquillity of which we are in such need in these days, and that the expense of a visit to Chatel Guyon is no more, and probably less, than that of any other holiday taken in comfortable surroundings.

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THE DEATH OF M. ARAOUZOS.

We have received from the Greek Press Bureau at Limassol, Cyprus, the following telegram:—"The death has occurred of M. Spyros Araouzos, delegate in London of the Cyprus Assembly, ex-member of the Legislative and Executive Councils, and National Councillor. The funeral was on Sunday." A later telegram states:—"The funeral of M. Araouzos was attended by the English Commissioner, the Greek Consul, Mayors, Councillors, and representatives of the whole island. Two metropolitans and over fifty clergymen officiated. Two hundred wreaths were placed on the coffin, which was covered and surrounded with Greek flags. Orators declared the confidence of Cyprus in the accomplishment of the national will. Three thousand people, villagers and citizens, followed the coffin to the cemetery, walking in extremely hot weather."

OBITUARY.

The death is announced of Sir Thomas William Holderness, G.C.B., K.C.S.I., formerly Permanent Under-Secretary of State, India Office. Sir Thomas, who was in his 76th year, was appointed to the I.C.S. in 1873 and retired in 1919. In his earlier days in India Sir Thomas earned great praise for his grasp of the difficulties in land revenue administration. He was taken, in 1901, from the Revenue and Agriculture Department of the Government of India, to Whitehall, as Secretary of the Revenue and Statistics Department of the India Office. In 1912 he was appointed as Permanent Under-Secretary, which office he occupied until 1919.

The death is reported from Calcutta of Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu, member of the Council of the Secretary of State for India and Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University. Mr. Basu, who was in his 66th year, was educated at Presidency College, Calcutta. He served on the Bengal Legislative Council and the Viceroy's Legislative Council, and was President of the Indian National Congress held in Madras in 1914. Mr. Basu represented the Indian Government at the International Labour Conference at Geneva in 1922, and was a member of the Royal Commission on the Indian Public Services last year.

Three Indian children were burnt to death and Miss Edwards, a European missionary, was seriously burnt in a fire at a missionary school in Calcutta last week.

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THE HEART OF AN ANCIENT PEOPLE.

"ARABS IN TENT AND TOWN." By A. Goodrich-Freer (Mrs. Spoer). (London: Seeley Service and Co., Ltd. 21s. net.)

The sub-title of this book exactly describes what it is—viz., "an intimate account of the family life of the Arabs of Syria, their manner of living in desert and town, their hospitality, customs, and mental attitude, with a description of the animals, birds, flowers, and plants of their country." "Syria" means little more than the Holy Land, and the term "Arabs" includes both Christian and Muslim Arabs, and often the indigenous Jews. It is written after 24 years' residence in Palestine, and represents the fruit of constant and loving observation by the author and her husband. Much of it was put together as refreshment for the mind in war time, when we gather that she and he were treated with suspicion and even severity by Turks and Germans, finally falling into the hands of Azerbaijan Bolshevists and escaping with difficulty and much hardship, but always holding fast to the precious note-books.

The author is definitely "*laudatrix temporis acti*," and we readily forgive her for her constant and often undeserved sneers at modern occidental ways for the spirit which has enabled her to give us this book. After six chapters mainly "about" women and children and family life, sixteen more follow about pilgrimages, hospitality, bread, coffee and coffee customs, property, weather, the camel, the horse, etc., birds and insects, dogs and cats, locusts and their customs, flowers and plants, trees, and the olive. Obviously, each chapter has originally been written as a little separate treatise. It is a pity that, in bringing these chapters together, the author has not taken more pains to avoid the repetitions which have necessarily crept in owing to the method of construction. And, to get rid of fault-finding, it is much to be regretted that the proofs were not more carefully read and that so little respect is so often shown to the English language. Mrs. Spoer is clearly Scottish by birth (does she not write Edward VII. as "I. of Scotland"?). She is American by marriage, but we do not recognise the following sentence as written in the English, Scots, or American language:—"We had repeatedly urged upon our young house-servant to drink only boiled water, for his father and sister had died of malaria while in our service, and who himself, as well as his mother, was often ill from fever." The book is too good to be allowed to contain such passages. Another edition is pretty sure to be demanded, and we would earnestly "urge upon" Mrs. Spoer to revise, not the matter of the book, but much of the language in which it is presented. A jewel of price deserves to be well set.

It is not easy to describe the charm of this book. It seems to consist mainly in its spirit of sympathy and the easy mastery which the writer has over her subject and her apt facility of illustrating her points by anecdotes, stories told her by her Arab friends, proverbs, or ancient tradition. There is an appreciative smile or chuckle for the reader once or twice on every page. As an example, taken at random, here is the explanation of the curious bray of the donkey stallion as heard in the streets of Jerusalem, which "was such a bray as one can hear nowhere else. It is not a cry of alarm, or excitement, it is not a call to others, it is not a song of love or incitement to amours; but it is one long, continuous heart-broken wail of anguish, ending, strange to say, with a most mirth-provoking little chuckle, a performance likely to produce distress and perplexity to the uninitiated rider, specially as, with the chuckle, there is a sudden run forward, following upon a determined stand, with neck stretched out and fore-foot planted wide. The occasion of it all is that the devil whispers into one ear: 'All the lady-donkeys are dead.' Hence the wail. Then he passes to the other and adds: 'But there is one left for you.' Hence the chuckle. No one who has passed through the experience will doubt the authenticity of this explanation. It fits the case precisely."

Or take this:—"They say the dog not only guards his master's house, but also his honour. When the cat has dined and they say 'Have you eaten well?' she replies, 'I am not satisfied'; whereas the dog, even if hungry, will make eructations to show that he is satisfied with what he receives. '*Mafeesh asal minu*,' added my informant ('There is none so noble as he')."

The book is a record of things and ways, many of which are hundreds and even thousands of years old, but are gradually disappearing with the advance of what Mrs. Spoer bitterly calls "higher civilisation." Whether as such a record for generations to come or whether as a series of pictures appealing both to those who know and to those who would like to know, we thank the author most heartily for what has been to her most clearly a labour of love. At the end of her chapter, "About the Olives," which is one of the most charming, she adds a paragraph: "Many readers would perhaps be more interested in details as to the commercial profits of the olive tree rather than in old stories of historical associations and old memories of the Arab peasantry, who have tended them for nearly thirteen hundred years. Even in these days, however, there are happily still a few choice souls who care for such things as 'please' rather than 'improve' the mind." To which we reply that she is too modest and at the same time too disdainful. Too modest because she not only pleases but definitely improves her readers' minds, and too disdainful, for the kind of information which she rightly avoids giving has its own value, though we look for it elsewhere, and would not for worlds wish to find it in her delightful pages.

C. S.-W.

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Jerusalem 1920-22: Being the Records of the Pro-Jerusalem Council during the First Two Years of the Civil Administration." Edited for the Council of the Pro-Jerusalem Society by C. R. Ashbee, M.A. With a Preface by Sir Ronald Storrs. (London: John Murray. £2 2s. net.)

"Ben Kendim: A Record of Eastern Travel." By Lieut.-Col. the Hon. Aubrey Herbert. Edited by Desmond MacCarthy. Illustrated with six maps. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 21s. net.)

"*Anonymi Gesta Francorum et Aliorum Hierosolymitanorum*." Edited by Beatrice A. Lees, M.A. (London: Humphrey Milford. 7s. 6d. net.) "Poems." By Henry Derozio. (London: Humphrey Milford. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Studies in Vedanta." By Vasudeva J. Kirtikar. (Bombay: D. B. Taraporevala Sons and Co. 14s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

September 25, 1924 (New Style).
September 12, 1924 (Old Style).
Saphar 25, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Ellul 26, 5684, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Maharaja of Kutch returned last week to the Carlton Hotel, London, from the country.

M. Oromolu, Governor of the National Bank of Roumania, arrived in London last Thursday from Paris.

H.E. M. Hadji Misheff, the Bulgarian Minister, has taken up his residence at 24, Queen's Gate Gardens.

The Maharani of Baroda left Genoa on September 16 for Bombay on board the Italian steamship Genova.

The Albanian Minister, who is in the South of France, will not return to London before the end of October.

M. George V. Mélas, Secretary at the Greek Legation, returned to London on September 18 from Scotland.

The Hon. Evan Morgan has left England for Palestine and Rome, and expects to remain abroad for several months.

Mr. H. E. Satow, O.B.E., Consul-General at Beyrout since 1920, has been appointed Consul-General at Algiers.

M. Radu T. Djuvara, Counsellor at the Roumanian Legation, left London last Saturday for the Continent on leave.

Mme. Yovan Yovanovitch, wife of the Yugoslav Consul-General in London, has returned to 37, Gloucester Place from the country.

Zaghloul Pasha, the Egyptian Premier, arrived in London last Tuesday from Paris. His Excellency is staying at Claridge's Hotel.

M. Luke Pierides, Swedish Consul in Larnaca, Cyprus, arrived in London on September 18, and is staying at the Great Central Hotel.

Princess Ileana, daughter of the King and Queen of Roumania, is visiting the Infanta Beatrice of Spain at Brownsea Island, near Poole.

Viscount and Viscountess Erleigh will arrive in London on October 11 from India, where they have been visiting the Earl and Countess of Reading.

Princess Marguerite and Princess Theodora of Greece returned to London last Thursday from visiting the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Sweden.

The Bishop of Waterford and Major-General G. M. Franks were among the passengers in the Caledonia, which left last Friday for Marseilles and Bombay.

M. Grégoire Michaesco, Commercial Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, returned to London last week from Brussels, where he had been on a special mission.

Princess Marie of Greece (Madame Ioannides) has been joined by Rear-Admiral Ioannides at Harrogate, where other visitors include Prince Madansinghi.

Mr. Justice Harrison left London last Thursday by the P. and O. Bombay express to join the s.s. Malwa at Marseilles. Colonel Sir Lawless Hepper and Sir Shadi Lal also embarked at Marseilles in the Malwa for Bombay.

Mr. Harold Knox-Shaw, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge, who has been appointed by the Radcliffe Trustees to be Radcliffe Observer in succession to the late Dr. A. Rambaut, was formerly Head of the Observatory at Helwan, Egypt.

Zekiaï Bey, the newly appointed Turkish Ambassador to the Court of St. James, recently visited the Foreign Office, and was received by Sir William G. Tyrrell, Assistant Under-Secretary of State. The Prime Minister is receiving Zekiaï Bey some time this week.

The King has approved the appointment of General Sir William R. Birdwood, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O., Ind. Army, to act as Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces in India, during the absence on leave of General Lord Rawlinson, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G.

M. Mishu, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, entertained at dinner on September 17 General and Mme. Anastasiu, General Cingureanu, M. Lupescu, Colonel Teiusanu (late Roumanian Attaché at Washington), Major Cadere, Major Boeresco, Major Rant, Lieutenant and Mme. Zamfiresco, Lieutenant and Mme. Stefanesco, Lieutenant Tanculesco, and Lieutenant Slod.

The will of the late Major-General Sir Vere Bonany Fane (61), K.C.B., K.C.I.E., of Dunvegan, Mayoneyo, Burmah, lately G.O.C., Burmah Command, who saw service in China, on the North-West Frontier of India, and during the Great War in Mesopotamia and Palestine (unsettled) (net personalty £2,885) has been proved at £2,970.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1924.

ALBANIA.

The absence of news from Albania might in ordinary circumstances be regarded as a satisfactory indication that the change of government had been appreciated in the country, and that the new Ministers were busy with the routine work of administration. When, however, it is learned that a strict censorship is being enforced, the suspicion that all is not as well as it seems begins to gain ground. There may be no justification for the suspicion, but if it exists, the Albanian Government probably has only itself to blame. In Great Britain, owing to conflicting interpretations of the tendencies at work in the recent changes, there was some uncertainty at first as to whether Albania stood to benefit by the insurrection of last June; but when it was realised that the old Government had incontinently fled the country at the first sign of public disapproval of its actions, and that the programme of the new Cabinet under Monsignor Fan Noli promised an enlightened attempt to introduce ordered and progressive Government in Albania, there was a general readiness to welcome the change and to hope for the best. The enforcement of a strict censorship inevitably arouses misgivings in the British public; it is a war measure, entirely justified when a country is fighting for its existence, but superfluous and out of place under peace conditions if the Government has the sympathy and support of the people. If, as we are led to infer, two letters to THE NEAR EAST from a correspondent in Albania have been suppressed by the censorship, we can only suppose that the new Government has so little confidence in itself and its position that it shrinks from any publicity on the course of events in the country. This seems an unfortunate and even foolish attitude to adopt. No one looks for the establishment of a model administration in Albania in a day, or a month, or a year. It is enough if the Government shows that its intentions are good, and that it is conscientiously working to replace the unsatisfactory inheritance left by its predecessors by a system more broadly based on the popular will. The suppression of communications to newspapers suggests that, if exception is taken to certain acts of the Government, the Ministers are aware that they are doing wrong and are anxious not to have the fact known. No foreign Government striving to do its best by its country has anything to fear from criticism in the British Press.

A danger by which all Balkan Governments are beset on taking office is to lose sight of the country's interests in their anxiety to rid themselves for ever of their political opponents. In its statement of policy issued by Archbishop Fan Noli's Ministry last June, there was a trenchant diagnosis of the ills from which Albania was suffering as a result of the previous régime, which was held responsible for "insecurity throughout the country, anarchy among the organs of the State, and the creation of personal powers outside and above those of the State, together with the assassination and attempted assassination of citizens and foreigners," and there followed an enumeration of a score and more of reforms that the new Government proposed to introduce. This programme was ambitious enough to occupy the whole time of the Cabinet, and it contained no reference to the establishment of a Political Court which should throw a cloak of legality over the wreaking of vengeance on the previous Government and its adherents. That is the time-honoured Balkan method which has brought disaster and misery to every country in turn. The Western Powers had every right to look for something better from the head of a Ministry who was also a high dignitary of the Church, and who had spent many years of his life in the civilised West. The best way to encompass the political death of opponents, especially when they have already fled the country, is to provide such a striking contrast to their inefficient administration that the country of its own accord will pronounce their perpetual banishment from power. To sink to their level by the passing of death sentences and by confiscating property is to fan the flame of vendetta and inevitably to prepare for a further swing of the political pendulum. There can be little inducement to Western Powers to recognise a Government that has little else than the persecution of its opponents to show for its first three months of office. Foreign countries are not interested in Albanian party politics, but they are naturally keen to see a Government get on with much-needed reforms, instead of introducing tribal strife into the conduct of public affairs.

No country in the Balkans has better reason than Albania to present a united front to the outside world, and anything that tends to perpetuate internal strife cannot be too strongly criticised. The hope engendered by Monsignor Fan Noli's accession to power was based on the recognition of the fact that he knew how the government of a country ought to be conducted. If he fails, therefore, he will be held far more to blame than a man in the position of Ahmed Zogu, who was wholly inexperienced in anything but Albanian mountain life. Every allowance will be made for the difficulties of the new Government's position; it suffers from the troubles of all coalition Ministries, intensified in its case by religious differences and the clash of regional interests, and it has a very difficult country to administer, with an empty exchequer and a tradition of unrest. Its chief hope lay in attending strictly to its business, with a single eye to placing the administration of the country on a satisfactory basis in the shortest possible time. It could have ignored the fugitive ex-Ministers, and there was no need to identify any of the people left in the country with the discredited policy of the late régime. By adopting the attitude that no Albanian needed to be convinced of the inherent inferiority of the "old gang" it would have provided public opinion with the strongest possible incentive—the fear of looking foolish—to rally to its support. As things are, it has reintroduced the wretched game of "ins-and-outs"; by attempting to prosecute or persecute its opponents it has driven them to self-defence by the only means known to them, and this has given a stimulus to unrest and has undermined public security. The tragedy of it all is that the present Government can probably say with considerable justice that it is the best that Albania can produce. For this reason we would strongly urge the Prime Minister and his colleagues to have done with pettiness, whether displayed in the persecution of opponents or in quarrels among themselves, and to show confidence in their own capacity to lift Albania on to a higher plane than she has hitherto reached.

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BRITAIN AND THE ARABS.

No more debatable subject has arisen out of the War than that of Great Britain's treatment of the Arabs. It is known that the Shereef of Mecca was encouraged to throw in his lot with the Allies by a number of promises made to him on behalf of the British Government, but considerable uncertainty exists as to the precise nature of those promises and as to the degree of justification there may be for any particular interpretation placed upon them by the Arabs in general. A good deal of Arab capital is made out of the failure attributed to Great Britain to carry out her promises, without being met with any specific refutation, with the result that many Britons are left with the uncomfortable feeling that the Arabs have been badly "let down." At one time it was hoped that the whole matter would be formally adjusted by a treaty between the Hejaz and Great Britain, which would register once and for all the resultant that both parties had agreed to accept of the two conflicting forces, represented by what has happened and what should have happened. Unfortunately, King Hussein has not been able to accept any of the several draft treaties negotiated in his name, and even if the course of events in Arabia still leaves him in a position to negotiate in the name of the Hejaz, it seems unlikely that the British Government will consider it worth while to devote any more time to a document that will obviously never satisfy King Hussein. In these circumstances it is not without interest to examine what is probably the fullest and most dispassionate analysis that has yet appeared of British relations with the Arabs during the War and after the Armistice, as set out in "A History of the Peace Conference of Paris," edited by Mr. H. W. V. Temperley. The pertinent section in Volume VI. is the work of Professor D. G. Hogarth, who writes not only with first-hand knowledge of the Arabs, but also with the advantage of close association with the peace negotiations. From a summary of this section it may be possible for many to form a more correct estimate of the various obligations and commitments of the Allies, first to one another, and then to King Hussein and other Arab chiefs, and of the extent to which the Allies as a whole, and Great Britain in particular, have carried them out or evaded them.

It was during the spring of 1914 that the Shereef informed the British Residency in Cairo, through his son Abdullah, that he was desirous of obtaining administrative autonomy in his Shereefate. When, therefore, the prospect of Turkey's entering the War became more and more certain, the Emir Abdullah, as the Shereef's Foreign Secretary, was asked about his father's intentions in the event of a *jehad* being proclaimed, and he received a hint to the effect that, in the event of war with Turkey, the co-operation of the Hejaz with the Allies would be to the advantage of both. The Shereef returned a non-committal reply. When Turkey actually declared war, an assurance was sent to the Emir Hussein of British support of his dynastic independence, and of our readiness to assist in the liberation of the Arabs, subject, in his case and theirs, to active participation on our behalf. An unequivocal answer was received from the Shereef a month later to say that he would abstain from helping our enemy. For many months no further communication passed between Great Britain and the Hejaz. The Emir was busy testing the temper and intentions of other Arab leaders. For the moment he filed our pledges, the one given to himself, and the other, as he interpreted it, to all of Arab race in Asia, and not merely Arabs of the Peninsula. Dr. Hogarth adds: "Though later communications from London made it evident that, in fact, those responsible for framing the second part of our pledge had not in view the Arabs of Asia outside the Peninsula any more than those of Africa, the wording justified Hussein's interpretation, and sowed seeds of misunderstanding not only with him and with our Allies, but also with the Government of India."

While the Imperial Government was in touch with the Hejaz, the Government of India undertook the work of dealing with the Arabs of the Eastern part of the Peninsula. It was also responsible for the campaign in Mesopotamia, and here no suggestion of ultimate sovereign independence was ever conveyed to the Arabs, nor, in our proclamation issued on the fall of Baghdad, was anything foreshadowed beyond self-government under tutelage.

In the spring of 1915 Great Britain was still free from any obligation to assist Arabs in warfare against the Turks, but she was no longer free from obligations to recognise Arab independence, whenever and wherever it should be self-established, and, further, to accept the substitution of an Arab Khalifate for the Turkish, if the Moslem world were to pronounce for it and bring it to pass. In the Arabian Peninsula, in particular, she had committed herself to the establishment and support of an Arab sovereign State, controlling the Holy Cities. All these commitments, announced in November, 1914, were confirmed by the distribution of a second proclamation in June, 1915. Actual treaties followed—with the Idrisi and with Ibn Saud (November, 1915).

In August, 1915, negotiations with the Hejaz were reopened with a letter from the Emir Hussein. Claiming to speak for an Arab nation-to-be, he asked Great Britain to acknowledge the potential sovereign independence of all the Arabs of Asia from the Indian Ocean to the 37th parallel N. latitude (i.e., Adana-Nisibin), and from the Red Sea and Mediterranean shores to the borders of Persia, Aden territory alone excepted. For a variety of reasons, particularly in view of the undefined but lately reasserted French interests in Syria, and the declarations and intentions of the Government of India in regard to Mesopotamia, a temporising reply was sent; but this served only to draw from the Emir an emphatic reiteration of the Arab territorial claim. A further communication was sent to Mecca in November, 1915. This, while explicitly ruling out of the negotiations all the Turkish-speaking districts which the Emir Hussein had claimed as Arab, and all Arab

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BY APPOINTMENT.

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societies with whose chiefs we already had treaties —while, further, reserving to French discretion any assurance about the independence of the Syrian littoral, or the freedom from tutelage of the interior—i.e., the district of the four towns, Damascus, Homs, Hamah, and Aleppo—while reserving other Arab regions in which France might prefer peculiar interests, and leaving the Mosul district and even, perhaps, Palestine in doubt—while, finally, stating expressly that no guarantee for the unconditional delivery of either Lower or Upper Iraq to the Arabs could be given by us; in spite of all these reservations and exceptions, this communication recognised an Arab title to almost all the vast territories which the Emir Hussein had claimed, including Mesopotamia, and therein promised our support to Arab independence, subject only to limiting but not annulling conditions. The Emir either took no notice of these reservations, or refused to agree to them; he agreed to none about Syria and Palestine. The British Government, on its part, neither modified its reservations nor gave them greater precision. At the end of the year the Emir, convinced at last that territorial questions were insoluble at that stage of the war, wrote to put them aside against the hour of an Allied victory, asking only for a pledge that Arab belligerents should not be deserted by the Allies in the conclusion of peace, and for financial and other help towards his preparations for action. These requests were agreed to, but with a final warning that in peace Great Britain would regard her obligations to France with the same eyes as in war.

These negotiations naturally affected both the Government of India and France. They called forth a protest from the former in so far as they compromised Indian policy in Iraq by making the country a subject of negotiation with a spokesman of an Arab nation. Conversations with France at this time began and ended with an assumption that the French had an indefeasible right to exclusive paramountcy in all Syria north of Palestine, with the implied recognition of a similar paramountcy for British influence south of the French limit; but an Arab right to independence under varying degrees of tutelage, within those zones, as without them, was conceded explicitly or implicitly by both parties. In the Sykes-Picot Agreement of May 16, 1916, to which Russia became a party, the three Governments engaged mutually to support and recognise an Arab National State in the interior of Syria, with probable centre at Damascus, whenever established by the Arabs themselves. This document represented the compromises capable of attainment at the time between interests that were in almost direct and unvarying opposition. "Honour demanded that previous British undertakings to the Shereef of Mecca and the Arabs should be amply fulfilled; it was urgently necessary to maintain concord and unity of effort between the chief European Allies, and—more difficult still—between European Allies and Arab Allies . . . it was necessary to provide for the future of Palestine—or, at least, of Jerusalem—without placing this region, held in world-wide sanctity, under unqualified Arab rule."

During the Hejaz revolt the Emir Hussein and his sons were constantly exhorted by Great Britain to promote the expansion of their local revolt into a pan-Arab rising. There followed a gradual extension of Allied-Arab co-operation committing us to an identification of the Shereefian cause with Arab Nationalism in general. The Emir's claims may have been officially ignored; but diplomatic representatives gave him, as spokesman of his nation, certain provisional undertakings about the future of Syria and that of Mesopotamia. We also communicated to certain representative Syrians in Cairo an assurance that, subject to unspecified interests of France, Great Britain would recognise Arab sovereignty in all places liberated by Arab (i.e., Shereefian) arms during the War. Both the Emir Hussein and the Emir Faisal, however, were aware by this time of the circumstances conditioning the undertakings given to the Arabs—the limitations imposed on action in Syria and by the Balfour declaration in regard to Palestine—and when this latter was communicated officially to the Emir Hussein, "he took it philosophically, contenting himself with an expression of good will towards a kindred Semitic race."

At the Paris Peace Conference it was the Sykes-Picot Agreement that was adopted as forming a pre-determined base for the settlement of the regions to which the undertaking applied, with the result that the Arab prospects created by British promises were, to say the least, greatly confused and diminished. It has to be borne in mind, however, that both the Agreement and the Balfour Declaration were war measures, called into being not merely, nor even chiefly, for the protection of the interests of individual Allies, but still more for the general purpose of securing Allied victory. Unfortunately, the very success of the Syrian campaign contributed to Allied difficulties in the ultimate settlement of Syrian questions. "The same French sentiments, susceptibilities and ambitions which the Sykes-Picot Agreement had been designed to soothe or to satisfy were grievously wounded by the fact that the conquest of Syria was made by British arms." The Arabs, conscious of French hostility to their aims, laid themselves out to obtain a footing in Syria so as to defeat

(*Concluded on page* 332.)

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Egypt's Cotton Market.

For the fourth year in succession, the Egyptian Government has taken the decision to intervene as a purchaser on the Alexandria cotton market, with a view to bolstering up prices. Last year a credit of £E500,000 was opened with the intention of purchasing about ten thousand bales, but only three-fourths of this amount was actually bought. A substantial profit on the amount sold was made, but the Government is left with a certain amount of cotton on its hands, as was the case in 1923. The cotton market has lately been falling, and there has been a steadily growing demand for Government intervention from all the classes of the population interested in cotton. To this the Cabinet has again yielded, expressing its readiness to purchase, if necessary, up to two million kantars.

Near Eastern Exchanges.

Attention was directed in these notes last week to the gradual stabilisation of Near Eastern exchanges, and it was pointed out that with the elimination of violent fluctuations the chief hindrance to trade was being overcome. The statistics of Bulgaria's foreign trade for the first six months of the current year confirms this view. There has been an increase of nearly 10 per cent. in the value of the imports as compared with the corresponding period in 1923, and an increase of more than 20 per cent. in the value of the exports. In view of all the circumstances, this must be regarded as satisfactory progress for the country that is more handicapped than any other Balkan State in regard to the resumption of normal relations with the rest of Europe. It is the instability of exchange rather than the rate that interferes with trade. After a period economic conditions adjust themselves to the depreciated currency, which becomes less and less of a burden to the community, except in the case of the unfortunate people with fixed incomes that still bear some relation to pre-War standards. This fact will not prevent a return to a gold basis for the currency to enable a country to have a more suitable unit than one which may be 1-300th or even 1-600th part of a pound sterling.

British Business Methods.

A recent issue of the *Bulletin* of the Federation of British Industries published a letter from a correspondent contrasting the methods of German business men and some British firms in dealing with business inquiries, with particular reference to actual instances in Greece. The point of the comparison was in each case the readiness of the German to go out of his way to make things easy for the potential purchaser, while a British house would proceed on stereotyped soulless business lines, which in nine cases out of ten might involve technical details altogether above the head of the Greek concerned. The correspondent drew attention to the number of people in Greece of the *nouveaux riches* type, who are anxious to put their money into industrial undertakings, in regard to which they may not have much technical knowledge, although their instinct as to their paying nature is sound. A German, it was pointed out, would make himself acquainted with the Greek's ideas, would forthwith work out all the particulars, and then would present him with a specification for the completed undertaking; a British house, it was suggested, would almost invariably require the man to furnish it with particulars of which he is quite ignorant. Little wonder that the German gets the business.

The Compleat Business Man.

Generalisations are almost invariably misleading, and I refuse to endorse the strictures of the *Bulletin's* correspondent as a hard-and-fast rule applicable to all British firms. But the point made is worth bearing in mind. It is an instance in business of the red-tape that we all decry when we come across it in Government departments. We can easily defend by business canons the steps taken by the British house; but the fact remains that the business is lost. If the inquiry had come from one of our own nationals, the demand for fuller particulars would not have seemed anything out of the ordinary. It is lack of imagination that credits the foreigner with an intimate knowledge of British methods and expects him to conform with our ways. What is required is just that amount of *savoir-faire* and courtesy which enables the representative to put himself in the other man's place and to spare no trouble to meet his wishes. It is probably the exception when these qualifications are entirely missing; but too often it is thought that there is no time for their indulgence. A great mistake, because a hundred per cent. efficiency without courtesy may quite easily fail to secure business that would come to half the efficiency with a full measure of courtesy. With a little business vision advantage could be taken by British manufacturers of many openings in Serbia at the present time.

The British Industries Fair.

According to present arrangements, the eleventh British Industries Fair should be held from February 16 to February 27 in two sections at the White City, London, and at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, and invitations to this end have been sent out to potential exhibitors. It remains to be seen, however, whether the decision to continue the

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British Empire Exhibition at Wembley next year, if it is taken, will affect the Industries Fair. In all probability the reopening of the Empire Exhibition would make it difficult, if not impossible, to hold the White City section of the Fair, in view of the fact that so many exhibitors would not wish to be represented concurrently at both places. This obstacle would certainly prevent the chemical trade from figuring at the Fair. For the sake of the latter, therefore, it is desirable that an early decision should be reached in regard to the fate of the Empire Exhibition.

COMMENTATOR.

PERSIAN MINES AND MINERALS.

There are few countries where the exploitation of minerals has been so much neglected as is the case in Persia. In ancient times mining was extensively carried on, though in a primitive way, and traces of copper and lead mines which had been worked, as well as foundries—large excavations, galleries, shafts, and mounds of scoria, as likewise bits of litharge—the latter indicating that silver had been extracted—are found at different places in the mountain regions all over the country. Since the invasion of the Arabs, Turks, and Tartars, mining has dwindled away almost to nothing. At present only slight attempts are made by the natives to extract coal, lead, copper, iron, sulphur, etc., and only rock salt and gypsum are produced in larger quantities.

A more serious attempt at mining operations was started about the year 1889, but after a few years of unsuccessful work this enterprise came to an end. A Belgian and French company also began the exploitation of some coal mines in the neighbourhood of Teheran, but soon this work also had to be abandoned. Later on the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. acquired an extensive concession in Southern Persia, and here we have the first really important and successful mining enterprise in the country.

The oil belt which begins in Mesopotamia stretches in a south-easterly direction through Persia as far as the district of Makran and Persian Baluchistan. In Persian territory there are over thirty oil-fields known where petroleum occurs in the tertiary deposits. As yet only three of the oil-fields have been exploited. They are situated to the south and south-east of the town of Shustar—viz., Maidan-i-Naphtun, which is the most productive one; White-Oil-Springs, situated about 35 miles to the south-east of the former, and the third near the town of Ahwaz. At Maidan-i-Naphtun oil was struck at a depth of about 1,000 feet.

In the northern provinces of Persia, which are outside the above concession, only seven or eight oil-fields are known, and these have not yet been sufficiently explored. Most of them are situated on the Caspian coast, and an export from here to Europe can be effected only *via* Baku-Batoum or Petrovsk-Novorossisk.

Occurrences of copper ores are very numerous in all parts of the country where older crystalline rocks outcrop. In many places these ores also contain a more or less considerable percentage of gold, as is the case in a Russian concession in the Karadagh district, situated in the province of Azerbaijan, to the south of the Aras River, where quite a number of rich copper mines are found, and where a ton of the ores contains about 0.3 oz. of gold.

Except in the district of Anarek, in Central Persia, where small quantities of copper are won by fusing oxides and carbonates of copper with the aid of charcoal, no copper mining is done. The principal drawbacks are the scarcity of fuel and the absence of proper and cheap means of transport; besides, Persian knowledge of metallurgy is not adequate to deal with sulphides, in which the country is so rich.

Coals of Jurassic age are abundantly distributed all over the central part of the Elburz Mountains, and especially in the environs of Teheran, Semnan, and Shahrud, and to the north as far as the Caspian coast. In other parts of the country the occurrence of coal beds are known in the districts of Kuhbenan, Kerman, Nehavend, and some other places. On an average the beds seldom exceed the thickness of one yard, and are for the most part thinner, though there is generally quite a series of them with intercalary beds of shales and sandstones.

The quality of the coal changes considerably in the various schists; some of the coals are strongly bituminous (Gagat), some yield up to 60 per cent. of coke, others are dry and anthracitic. As on the whole extent of the table-land no forests are found, mineral coals of even an inferior quality have a great importance, since no real industry is possible without the necessary fuel. At present the only coal mines which are worked at all and in a primitive way, are situated about thirty or forty miles distant to the north-east and north-west of Teheran. The coal is transported on donkeys. Rationally worked and with improved means of transport, these coal mines could possibly be made paying concerns and a great help to the development of different industrial enterprises.

Lead ores also occur very frequently all over Persia, and contain sometimes a considerable percentage of silver. Only three or four mines are at present worked, in a primitive fashion, and the quantity of lead extracted hardly covers the small demands of the Persian market. Zinc and antimony ores are also found in some places in sufficient quantities for exploitation, but are not worked. Iron mines are numerous, especially in the central parts of the country, and some of the ores are very pure and contain no pyrites or other sulphurous minerals, and are very rich, containing 65 to 70 per cent. of metallic iron. Some of the mines contain very great quantities of ores, and as the mineral lies on the surface working is easy. Except some limonites, which generally accompany the coal schists, no iron mines are worked on account of the absence of the necessary fuel, water supply, and means of cheap and effective transport. An export trade is impossible, since the principal mines of crystalline iron ores are situated much too far from any seaport. The iron produced by the Persians from limonites and analogous ores at Mazanderan, where charcoal is used as fuel, is very soft, and the natives use it in a cold condition for the forging of horseshoes, nails, etc.

Gold placers in diluvial and alluvial sands are known at different places, and the percentage of metal in the sands is high enough to yield profits; but the natives do not know a practical method of extracting the gold. Moreover, there is not always sufficient water at hand. They wash the sands in wooden dishes, and this method of manipulation certainly does not pay. Gold in quartz veins is also known in the mountains near Meshhad, Kuhbenan, Zenjan, and elsewhere, but these occurrences have neither been sufficiently prospected nor ever worked. Real silver ores are said to exist somewhere to the south-east of the Sahend mountains, but the exact place is as yet unknown. Cinnabar and quicksilver are found in the sands of a stream in the Afshar district near the ruins of Takht-i-Soleiman, where gold also is

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present, but the mountains whence the stream brings the sand and metals have not been explored. Nickel and cobalt ores exist in the mountains to the south-west of Kashan and to the north of Anarek in Central Persia. Oxide of cobalt is extracted, fused with borax and used as blue colour for glazed tiles, etc. Tin ore is said to exist in the mountains about Kuhbenan, but the exact place is not known. Besides the minerals named, there are in different parts of the country known occurrences of pyrites, arsenic ores, chrome, molybdenum, manganese, sulphur, barium, asbestos, borax, rock-salt and other salts, gypsum, etc., of which only arsenic ores, sulphur, borax, rock-salt, and gypsum are extracted in more or less large quantities.

As regards precious stones, only turquoises are won, and though it is reported that rubies and emeralds occur at Khorassan, nobody knows where.

Prospecting for useful minerals is very difficult in the provinces of Mazanderan and Gilan, along the southern coast of the Caspian Sea, as dense forests cover the plains, hills, and part of the mountains, which rise up to an altitude of 10,000 to 14,000 feet. The remaining principal, and largest, part of Persia is, on the contrary, a table-land, void of any forests to speak of, and consists of extensive arid plains and valleys and a great number of high, barren, rocky mountain ranges, cross-cut by deep valleys and ravines, with precipitous borders, exposing to the eye of the observer all the formations of which the mountains consist. Here prospecting for useful minerals is very much facilitated, and an experienced geologist or mining engineer could hardly overlook the traces and indications which point to the presence of useful metals and minerals.

In some districts of the country the Persians are hardy workmen and miners. It is possible to see mines where these men, following a mineral lode, dig holes in the rock like moles in the earth, crawling sometimes on hands and knees, with a smoking old-fashioned lamp before them, and working away with their short picks, lying stretched out, till they meet a richer mineral deposit and here work out lofty and extensive galleries and caves, without using any timber for support. These men only want guidance and knowledge to become first-rate miners.

With the construction of railways and proper roads, mining operations are sure to be extended, as the railway constructors must necessarily consider the possible exploitation of mines on both sides of the line in order to make it a paying concern. The transport of goods and passengers alone in a poorly populated country would never provide sufficient revenues to cover the expenses and give dividends. First of all, oilfields and coal mines and their exploitation have to be considered, as the essential sources of the necessary fuel. Wood and timber must be brought from the Caspian provinces to the table-land and the mining districts, and all this requires capital and enterprise.

The Persian Government by itself is powerless to create any enterprise on a large scale, possessing neither the necessary funds, nor the professional men for the purpose.

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BULGARIA'S FOREIGN TRADE.

Information is now available of Bulgarian imports and exports for the first six months of the current year. Imports for this period amounted to 2,724,990,241 leva (£4,540,000) and exports to 2,050,804,792 leva (£3,420,000), as compared with the following figures for the first half-year 1923:—Imports, 2,486,257,084 leva (£4,144,000); exports, 1,795,025,440 (£2,992,000).

Bulgaria's best customers are as follow, value of the combined imports and exports for each for the first six months of 1924 being given in brackets:—Germany (£1,436,000), France (£1,034,000), Italy (£1,013,000), Austria (£950,000), Great Britain (£646,000), Belgium (£428,000).

Imports for the same period by country of origin were as follow, the second sum in each case being the corresponding amount for the first six months of 1923:—Germany (£902,544, £877,370), Italy (£675,246, £725,900), Great Britain (£619,560, £662,154), Austria (£500,000, £376,000), France (£378,407, £405,622), Belgium (£325,661, £164,626), Roumania (£282,730, £241,540), Czechoslovakia (£258,460, £121,036).

Exports for the same period by country of destination were as follow, the second sum in each case being the corresponding amount for the first six months of 1923:—France (£655,926, £463,242), Germany (£533,577, £172,538), Austria (£450,000, £381,000), Italy (£337,948, £483,170), Greece (£330,000, £185,000), Turkey (£197,652, £623,827), U.S.A. (£114,833, £84,710), Belgium (£102,434, £62,017), Great Britain (£26,444, £25,683).

The value of British imports reaching Bulgaria during the month of June was £90,265 as compared with £92,000 in June, 1923. The principal articles imported from Great Britain were:—Textiles (£51,666), metals (£19,170), oils, fats (£9,430), machinery (£2,133), and chemicals (£2,061).

JAM IN PALESTINE

In view of the fact that a large stock of unsold wine remains in the cellars of Rishon le Zion and Zicron Jacob in Palestine, it has been decided to use a considerable portion of this year's grape crop for the purposes of making jam and concentrated grape juice. An experiment in this direction proved successful last year, when thirty-five tons of concentrated grape juice were produced and exported from Zicron Jacob to European and especially to English markets. This year it is anticipated that with the exception of a few hundred kantars of grapes, from which sweet wine is to be manufactured, nearly the whole grape crop will be converted into jam and concentrated grape juice.

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British Consular Reports.

EGYPT.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL PROGRESS.

The following extracts are taken from the Report on the Economic and Financial Situation of Egypt (dated April), by Mr. E. Homan Mulock, British Commercial Secretary in Cairo, published for the Department of Overseas Trade by H.M. Stationery Office :—

Egypt is to be envied, writes Mr. E. Homan Mulock, both for the flourishing state of her public finances and for the satisfactory economic situation arising out of the general prosperity of the country. For the third time since the war the total foreign trade of Egypt has passed the hundred million mark, and for the second calendar year in succession the balance is in Egypt's favour, having reached in 1923 a figure in excess of that of the favourable trade balance in 1922 and the adverse trade balance in 1921. For the third successive financial year, too, the actual surplus has enormously exceeded budgetary estimates. Thus, an expected deficit of nearly two millions in 1921-22 was converted into a surplus of over four millions; the estimated surplus of two millions for 1922-23 grew to £E7,516,573; while the budgetary surplus of £E550,000 for 1923-24 was expected to reach £E4,975,000 by March 31, 1924. When it is realised that the respective budgetary receipts for the three periods specified above totalled £E36,701,000, £E33,630,000, and £E34,905,000, the significance of the proportion thereto borne by the corresponding surpluses is worth noting.

Of the surplus resulting from the financial year 1922-23 all but £E1,290,000 (of which £E1,250,000 was kept as a Special Reserve for payment of regraded salaries, the remaining £E40,000 being utilised to bring the carry-over and Fonds de Roulement held by the Caisse de la Dette up to a total of £E1,610,000) was passed to the General Reserve Fund, which thereby rose from £E5,569,659—the figure at which it stood on April 1, 1922, to £E11,796,232 on the same date in 1923. During the course of 1923-24 the Special Reserve above referred to was found to be superfluous, and the sum of £E1,250,000 was therefore returned to the General Reserve Fund, which, if it is further increased by the whole of the budgetary surplus finally realised on March 31, 1924, should prove to be in the neighbourhood of £E18 millions on April 1, 1924. Accurate figures are not available at the time of writing, as the final accounts of any given financal year are not completed till some twelve months later; while by a Royal Decree of March 31, 1924, the Budget for 1923-24 is to be applied provisionally to 1924-25, pending Parliamentary approval of the new Budget.

The Budget of 1924-25.

The first Egyptian Budget framed under the ægis of Parliamentary control of the country's finances was not presented to the Chamber of Deputies until April 26, 1924, and, as it is at the moment of writing in the Committee stages, the following figures from an article in the Press on the Note on the Budget drafted by the Finance Committee of the Ministry concerned are quoted, subject to possible subsequent alteration.

The Budget for 1924-25, as presented to Parliament, was balanced at £E34,400,000: the expenditure being estimated at £E34,180,000, a surplus of £E220,000 is thus forecast. In comparison with 1923-24, the estimated receipts and expenditure show decreases of £E505,000 and £E175,000 respectively.

Receipts.—There is nothing of an unusual character about the estimated revenue other than the sum of £E150,000 representing the proceeds of the sale of cotton purchased by the Egyptian Government. The estimated gross increase of revenue under certain heads amounts to about a million and a-half, of which £E719,000 is expected to accrue from increased Customs revenue; but this gross increase must be offset by an estimated total decrease of £E829,000, for £E581,000 of which the railways (as is explained elsewhere in Mr. Mulock's Report) are expected to be responsible. The receipts from the cotton tax are estimated at £E1,250,000, calculated on a basis of 5 millions of kantars of ginned cotton taxed at the rate of Pt. 25 per kantar.

Expenditure.—Economies in the credits for all Departments of the Egyptian Government are accounted for by the decline in the prices of materials, and the reduction of railway freight charges. The sum of £E3,964,000 is allowed for new works, of which the following are of commercial or industrial interest :—

Public Works.—£E50,000 is to be used for the purchase of the two new pumps at Abou Menage; £E165,000 is allotted for irrigation works in the Sudan; new machinery will be required for the pumps at Atf, for the Government Arsenal, and for Mex Pumping Station. A new Palais de Justice for the Mixed Courts in Cairo has already been begun, and a further extension of the Cairo Museum is needed to house the Tutankhamen treasures; expropriation, with a view to constructing two new tram-lines in Cairo, is provided for, as is also the purchase of mechanically propelled water-carts for its streets.

Harbour Works.—£E201,000 is allotted for the extension of Suez Harbour, £E20,000 for rebuilding the Customs House at Port Said, and £E7,000 for a floating dock for Government vessels.

Communications and Railways. — The credit allotted to the Egyptian State Railways for 1924-25 is considerably less than in 1923-24, and, as a result of the diminution in cost of working, freight charges and passenger rates have been reduced to such an extent that the public benefits to the amount of £E800,000, although it is expected that

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the normal development of traffic will make good £E219,000 of this, thus accounting for the estimated decrease of £E581,000 in revenue from the railways. In spite of the diminution of this important source of revenue, it is confidently anticipated that the financial situation of the railways will not suffer, but that their exploitation in 1924 will give the minimum profit that can be expected from an enterprise of this nature—viz., 5 per cent. of the capital sunk in the railways. The system has suffered greatly from difficulties in the way of its normal upkeep, and will therefore call for heavy expenditure on the work of, and supplies needed for, renewal to make good the extensive deterioration of track and railway material.

Telegraphs and telephones, roads and bridges, and agriculture have all had money allocated to them, and particularly interesting in connection with the last-named is the allotment of £E14,000 for the purchase of flax seed in order to encourage its cultivation in Egypt, while £E156,000 is to be used for the purchase and distribution of cotton seed, and a sum of £E400,000 is to be devoted to the purchase of reliable and harmless chemical manures, which will be sold to cultivators at cost price.

Government Purchase of Cotton.

It is to be expected that, however conservative the financial policy of the Government may be, money will always be forthcoming when needed for intervention in the cotton market, as happened in 1923 for the third successive year, in an attempt to bolster up prices regardless of the laws of supply and demand.

On July 31, 1923, a credit of £E500,000 was opened, with a view to the purchase during the then ensuing cotton season of about 10,000 bales, for which storage was duly arranged. However, up to March 31, 1924, less than half this quantity —viz., about 4,000 bales—had been purchased, at a total cost of about £E210,000. A profit of 50 per cent. could have been made had the Egyptian Government sold their cotton at the top price attained during the current season up to the end of the financial year 1923-24, but the opportunity was lost, and on March 31, 1924, they still had on their hands, not only the 4,000 bales purchased during the current season, but also 2,000 bales left over from their purchases in the preceding season.

Movement of the Cotton Crop.

The partition among the principal purchasing countries of bales exported in the 1921-22 and 1922-23 seasons is shown in an appendix to Mr. Mulock's Report, from which it will be seen that Great Britain's purchases fell from 46 per cent. of the 1921-22 exports to 43 per cent. in 1922-23, whereas those of the United States remained constant at about 22 per cent. As the result of appreciable proportional increases in the exports of cotton to every country except Germany during the 1922-23 season as compared with its predecessor, the total quantity of kantars exported rose from 5,806,813 to 7,172,510, with the result that the stock in Alexandria was only 803,000 kantars at the end of the season, as compared with 1,332,000 twelve months previously. It is also satisfactory to note that the almost complete clearing up of the stocks of old-crop cotton in the interior, some two, or even three, years old, accounted to some extent for the large increase in arrivals and exports during 1922-23.

Thus the 1923-24 season opened under much more favourable conditions than the previous one, owing to prospects of greater uniformity of quality and staple resulting from the reduction of old-crop cotton in the interior to practically *nil*. How far these prospects are borne out by results during the whole of the current season remains to be seen, but in the meantime, taking the Customs statistics as a uniform basis for calculation of prices, the value per kantar for the total exports during the first four months of the 1923-24 season—35 dols. 99 cts. per kantar—compares most favourably with the 30 dols. 29 cts. of the whole 1922-23 season.

Sakel v. Uppers.

There is one factor which merits the earnest consideration of all consumers of long-staple cotton, viz., the tendency of the growers of cotton in Egypt to plant more Ashmouni and Zagora and less Sakellarides in Lower Egypt. As this tendency is dictated by financial considerations pure and simple, the remedy for the evil, if they consider it to be one, lies in their own hands.

The strides which curtailment of Sakel in Lower Egypt (the only part of the country where it can be grown with any success) has made in 1923 and 1924 are best realised by a comparison of the percentages of Lower Egypt acreage sown with Sakel in the two years above mentioned with those of previous seasons. The average percentage of Lower Egypt acreage under Sakel during the seasons 1917-18 to 1920-21 was 91.84, and in 1922-23 the percentage was as high as 97.24. In 1923-24 this had shrunk to 79, and provisional estimates for the next season are placed at 68.

(To be concluded.)

TRADE CONFERENCES.

The conferences that have been held during September at the British Empire Exhibition between representatives of trades, who are among the exhibitors, and Dominion or Colonial representatives will be continued in October. This week the subjects of discussion have been Engineering Manufactures and Motors; Silk, Lace, and Miscellaneous Textiles is the topic for October 1, Woollen Goods for October 2, Printing, Paper, and Stationery for October 7, and Boots, Leather, and Indiarubber Goods for October 8. Subsequent subjects include Sports, Games, and Fancy Goods; Foods, Beverages, and Tobacco; Coal and Gas Appliances; Furniture and Musical Instruments; Textile Machinery; Pottery. The object of the Conferences is to provide an opportunity for manufacturers to learn at first hand of the requirements of overseas markets, and to make known their own points of view regarding both the finished products and the raw materials that they may draw from overseas.

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BALKAN TRADE NOTES.

In their Weekly Review of Foreign Exchanges for the week ending September 18, Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co. publish the following notes :—

Roumania.—The *Central European Observer* publishes a report from Bucharest which states that negotiations for a loan on the strength of profits from petroleum are proceeding very successfully. It is asserted in Roumanian financial circles that M. Bratianu, the Finance Minister, has come to an agreement with the French interests concerned in regard to the guarantees demanded. Roumania is to be given immediately an advance of 500 million French francs on the production of petroleum for a period of five years. Simultaneously with the above negotiations, the liquidation of the old unsettled questions relating to the treasury bonds is being discussed. These negotiations are being conducted in France, England, and Belgium, and are proceeding very satisfactorily. The Roumanian Government is investigating the result of this year's grain crops with a view to relaxing the regulations relating to grain exports.

Yugoslavia.—According to a report of the Secretary of the General Syndicate of Industries, the total exports for the first half of the current year amounted to 4,176,000,000 dinars, manufactured goods accounting for 2,820,000,000, or more than 50 per cent. (In 1923 the total exports amounted to 8,408,000,000 dinars, manufactured goods to 3,600,000,000 dinars.) It is probable that between September 1, 1924, and August 31, 1925, the export of manufactured goods will reach the value of 4,459,000,000 dinars. From this it is evident that Yugoslavian industry is the main factor in the stabilising of the Yugoslav currency.

This year's tobacco crop in Yugoslavia promises to be an excellent one, and a large surplus will be available for export. There are also in hand considerable stocks from previous years—320,000 kilogrammes of the 1922 crop, and some 5,000,000 kilogrammes of last year's, including both cigarette and pipe tobacco in different grades of quality from ordinary to fine select. It is expected that, in view of the good quality of Yugoslavian tobacco and the low transport costs, the Hungarian Tobacco Régie will this year make large purchases in Yugoslavia, instead of, as hitherto, in Turkey and Bulgaria. The value of Yugoslavia's egg exports in July was upwards of 58 million dinars. Of this quantity 27 million dinars' worth went to Switzerland, 11½ to Austria, and 7½ to Italy. In the first six months of the current year Yugoslavia's exports totalled 1,585,939 tons, of a value of 4,186 million dinars, an increase of 24 per cent. in weight and 25 per cent. in value on the exports for the first half of 1923. The import figures are not yet out, but those for the first three months of the year were 1,928 million dinars, so that the balance of trade for the first six months is likely to be upwards of 300 million dinars.

BRITAIN AND THE ARABS.

(*Continued from page* 326).

French ambitions and prevent the execution of the terms of the Anglo-French agreement. At first, with the establishment of the Emir Faisal's administration at Damascus, the Shereefian scheme for Syria went well. From this point Syrian history becomes for a time the story of a triangular struggle of conflicting interests—the story of the Emir Faisal's efforts to realise his ambitions; of French hostility to the Shereefian movement in Syria, and, later, to the Emir himself; and of British endeavours to honour the undertakings given to the Arabs and the French. In Paris it was soon recognised that complete execution of the Anglo-French Agreement was impracticable owing to the course of events, and that some other arrangement was required—the more so that the French showed every sign of exacting to the letter the rights conferred upon them by the agreement. On November 7, 1918, the Joint Declaration by Great Britain and France regarding British and French war aims in the East was published. The Arabs regarded it as superseding, or, at least, qualifying, the provisions of the Sykes-Picot Agreement; and although there was nothing in the verbal form of the Declaration inconsistent with strict adherence to the terms of the Agreement, the spirit apparently was quite different. Modifications of the Agreement in regard to Mosul and Paris were made during December, 1918, but further efforts by Mr. Lloyd George in this direction failed, and the British Government urged the Emir Faisal to come to terms with the French. In the Paris Conference itself a sharp dispute over Syrian affairs took place between France and Great Britain, and President Wilson proposed an Inter-Allied commission of inquiry with a view to discovering the desires of the population. The suggestion came to nothing. Ultimately, in September, 1919, a provisional agreement on Syrian questions was reached by Mr. Lloyd George and M. Clemenceau; French troops were to replace British troops in Syria, and the area reserved by the Sykes-Picot Agreement for an independent Arab State (i.e., the area east of and including the cities of Damascus, Hamah, Homs, and Aleppo) was to be occupied not by French troops, but by Arab. For Great Britain this arrangement fulfilled alike British undertakings to France, contained in the Sykes-Picot Agreement, and British pledges to the Shereef of Mecca. "The weakness of the arrangement lay in a cause outside these earlier commitments. It lay in the obvious intention of France to adopt her own interpretation of promises, actual or implied, which the Allies had given to the Arabs."

The rest of the Syrian story is well known. King Faisal's independent Syrian State fell because its existence was in direct conflict with French ambitions, in circumstances which prevented British influence being made effective for its preservation. To make the best of a bad job, Great Britain fulfilled her pledges to the Shereef of Mecca and to the Arabs in the other directions open to her, by installing the Emir Abdullah in Transjordan and the Emir Faisal as King of Iraq. With regard to Palestine, this country, as far as Great Britain was concerned, had been excluded from the area destined for an independent Arab State. The phraseology "lying west of the Damascus-Aleppo line" may not have been particularly felicitous, but can be justified in the same way as Russia may be said to lie, in Europe, north of the Danube. King Hussein, however, had been left in no uncertainty regarding Great Britain's intentions, and the Emir Faisal had declared his agreement with the proposals of the Zionist leaders as laid before the Peace Conference. It was only with the British evacuation of Syria that an agitation arose for the inclusion of Palestine in an independent Syria, and the drawing of attention to the quietness in Palestine by the French may be said to have acted as a stimulus to the bolstering up of an Arab agitation in that country as well.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended September 11, state :—

Futures.—The market during the past week has been fairly active. The net changes since last Thursday are :—Sakellaridis, $1.59, $1.50, and $1.20 down respectively for November, January, and March; Ashmouni, $0.95, $0.80, $0.95 down respectively for October, December, and February. The decline experienced during the week is merely the reflection of the drop in New York, and is not attributable to any local factor. The Sakel contract has been rather heavy. General opinion now seems to be realising the fact that the Sakel supply is not going to be so small as at one time expected; the Sakel crop has succeeded relatively much better than either Ashmouni or Zagora. The difference between November Sakel and October Ashmouni at the close to-day is 925 points, and looks like narrowing further. The volume of business has been fairly large, but has not reflected much new spinners business. The monthly bulletin issued by the Government at the end of last month forecasts an average yield over the whole of Egypt of kantars 3.37 per feddan. On the Government figures of acreage this would give a crop of 6,025,000 kantars. The week's receipts amount to 129,210 kantars, against exports 43,769 kantars; the stock stands at 366,700 kantars.

Spot.—Total sales during the week amount to about 10,000 bales, of which we estimate 2,900 bales Sakel, 6,900 bales Uppers, 100 bales Pilion, and 100 bales White. The spot market was open last Saturday, and will continue to open on Saturdays until further notice.

Sakellarides.—The market has shown a little more activity during the week, but buyers are not inclined to pay high prices. With new crop cotton coming down in fair quantities, the premiums paid for the higher grades have declined considerably. There are still some buyers of the lower grades, and prices of these as compared with contracts remain more or less unchanged.

Lower Egypt Zagora.—This variety, of which there is now a good quantity on the market, has been quite neglected, and is offered rather cheaper than similar grades of Uppers.

Uppers.—A larger business has been done in all grades from Fully Good Fair upwards; premiums remain about the same as last week. The lower grades have been entirely neglected.

Pilion and White.—A small business has been done in the better grades of both these varieties at about last week's premiums.

Crop 1924.—Crop news is unchanged, and calls for no special comment. The Sakel crop is maturing well all over the Delta, and the prospects are for a good average yield. Cultivators are not at all satisfied with the results of Zagora in the Delta; this variety has been very susceptible to climatic conditions, and does not look like giving a yield of more than about half a kantar per feddan better than Sakel in the same districts.

The report of the Ministry of Agriculture for the month of August reads :—

Average condition for the whole of Egypt, 90; average forecast yield per feddan, 3.37 kantars. (In the system of notation employed 100 is taken to represent an average condition of the crop reported on in each division of the country; this average is calculated from the crop results of the preceding ten years.)

Generally speaking, the weather has improved since the publication of the last bulletin and has been favourable. Attacks of bollworms, together with consequent attacks of fungous diseases, are reported from all provinces with a degree of severity higher, on the whole, than last year. Slight attacks of minor pests and diseases, including aphis, wilt, and *Rhizopus Nigricans*, have also been reported from some provinces, where they have caused no great damage.

Apart from the effect of unfavourable conditions reported in last month's bulletin, now reflected by the irregular opening of part of the bolls and the drying up of others, the usual harmful practice of over-watering cotton has again resulted in a considerable amount of boll-shedding, besides favouring vegetative growth and attacks of bollworms.

The crop is considered to be somewhat earlier than last year. In basin lands, picking began towards the middle of August, while a few early sown fields in perennially irrigated areas were also picked during the last week of the month; picking, however, is not expected to be general before the middle of September.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, in their report for the week ending September 17, state :—

Egyptian Futures.—We have again to report a substantial drop in values in this market, increasing pressure from the New Crop finding insufficient support from trade and speculative sources to permit anything but temporary reactions from the downward movement. In spite of being relatively by far the dearer market, and therefore presumably attracting more than its usual share of the hedging operations, Alexandria maintains last week's heavy premium over our contract. To import cotton here at present differences is quite out of the question, and with the local stock of tenderable cotton a negligible factor, near positions show increasing strength. The trade continues to "mark time," as far as operations of importance in New Crop cotton are concerned, and their attitude is certainly having an appreciable effect on the market outlook at the moment. Probably this season, shippers have fewer commitments than customary, and, whilst there are yet no indications that values have grounded, there is always the danger of a concerted buying movement being started by what otherwise would have been a temporary reaction. The Egyptian/American straddle has not moved much during the past few weeks, but the continued appreciation in near positions is a reassuring feature

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for those who have entered into this transaction. There is little to report as far as the new crop is concerned, except that in some quarters it is stated that the Upper Egyptian crop is not turning out as satisfactorily as the promise of a few weeks ago indicated. The general level has now fallen to a more attractive figure than that obtaining for some time, and any degree of steadiness will bring in its train an increasing volume of trade support. Taking a long view, probably the market will touch a lower figure than that now obtaining, but we have fallen so far below Alexandria that we would not dissuade those who have profits here from closing out for the time being or transferring their sales to the overseas market.

Egyptian Spot.—Once more we have had to record a substantial drop in spot prices, which brings Fully Good Fair Sakel to 230 points below what it was on August 13, or just over a month ago. The market is very irregular, but, generally speaking, holders have shown considerable eagerness to dispose of their stocks, except in the case of F.G.F. to Good Sakel of good staple, for which class of cotton big premiums are asked and obtained. A fair general inquiry has been witnessed, practically all growths of Egyptian and Sudan cotton receiving a share of attention at one time or another. The greatest scarcity in Sakel cotton continues to be felt in the ordinary Fully Good Fair quality, and spinners who depend on this for the bulk of their mixings are finding it very difficult to obtain their requirements, even with the aid of "outsiders," odds and ends, and "damp" cotton. Difficult as the situation is to-day, it is likely to become still more acute before supplies of F.G.F. new crop can come to hand, which will not be for another six weeks probably. A steady trade continues in the "off" cotton at prices which continue to favour buyers, in spite of a slight tendency to harden which has been shown in the official quotations for Fair Sakel. At the other extreme, Sakel cotton at from 250 to 350 on has met with a fair amount of support. With Sakellaridis relatively dear, and with a poor selection from which to choose, Sudan Sakel and Tokar Sakel have claimed many adherents, their freedom from "Nep" proving an attraction to spinners. White Sudan has also been in fair request, and rather more business has been got through at prices varying from 150 to 250 on American contracts. The Upper market is practically swept, so much so that the official quotations are now only nominal. In spite of this, a fair inquiry from spinners still persists, especially for the best. The diverting of a steamer carrying the first Upper shipments to this country has caused much dissatisfaction amongst spinners, many of whom had paid high premiums in order to obtain cotton during the first week of September. A large volume of c.i.f. inquiry has been noticeable, the shipments asked for extending up to December. The Alexandria basis, both for Sakel and Upper, has continued to decline, but it is a moot point whether the bottom has not now been reached, at all events for Sakellaridis. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 12th inst. have been returned as 4,452 bales. Estimated sales 2,000 bales Egypts and about 860 bales Sudan. Quotations of Brown and Upper are reduced 50 points with the exception of Fair, which is 25 points lower. In Sakel, Fair to Good are 75 points lower. Fine and Extra Fine 100 points lower. F.G. Fair Sakel to-day 24.05d.

(Manchester Cotton Trade Review will be found on p. 337.)

The receipts of the Czecho-Slovak State Railways in May amounted to Kr. 314,918,846, an increase of nearly six million kronen on the returns for the preceding month.

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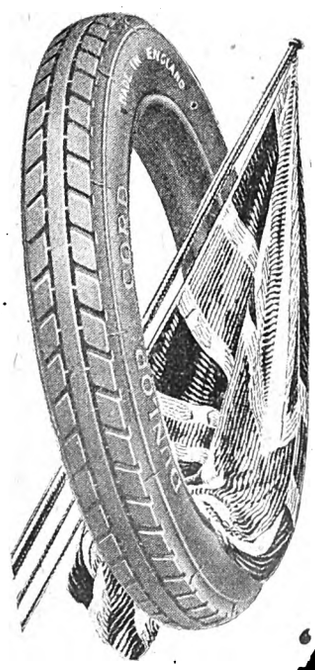

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

A New P. & O. Liner.

A new P. and O. liner, Ranpura, was launched on September 13 at Hebburn from the yards of Messrs. Hawthorn, Leslie, and Co., Ltd. The Ranpura has a length overall of 570 ft., her beam is 71 ft. 3 in., depth 47 ft., gross tonnage 16,000, and speed 17 knots. She has seven decks in all, and is designed on the most up-to-date lines, particular attention having been directed to the comfort of passengers travelling in tropical countries. Her passenger capacity is 305 first saloon and 282 second saloon. The cabin accommodation is spacious and well lighted; a lift will serve all the passenger decks; a number of special cabins, each with a separate bathroom, are situated on "B" deck.

Shipping Dues in Syria.

The French High Commission in Syria has published a decree imposing certain navigation and manifest dues on vessels calling at Lebanese and Syrian ports, with effect from August 1 last. Navigation dues are payable according to tonnage on arrival, while a fixed sum is paid on departure. The decree provides for a reduction of dues in the case of vessels passing direct from one Syrian or Lebanese port to another, irrespective of the nationality of the vessels concerned. Companies maintaining a regular passenger service are granted a 20 per cent. reduction. The full text of the decree may be consulted by companies of British origin, capital, and control at the City Office of the Department (Shipping and Transport Section), 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2.

Soviet Shipping.

Soviet nationalisation of shipping has not been a success in the Black Sea. Before the Bolshevists came into power a successful steamship service was maintained between Russian, Turkish, Bulgarian, and Roumanian ports by the Russian Shipping and Trading Company. The company was taken over by the Soviet Government as a State concern, and it is now announced that the services between Russian and foreign ports are to be discontinued as a result of the total absence of cargoes and passengers.

Launch at Barrow.

The steamer Don, the second of the two cargo and passenger steamers ordered by the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company from Vickers, Limited, in December last, for their Goole and Continental service, was launched from the Naval Construction Works at Barrow-in-Furness on the 18th instant. The dimensions of the vessel are:—Length B.P., 240 ft.; breadth moulded, 34 ft.; depth moulded, 16 ft. 4 in. There is accommodation for eight passengers on the bridge deck forward, in two state-rooms on each side of the dining saloon. Between decks there is accommodation for the transport of 57 horses.

A Rangoon message states that an oil tank at Syriam, of 2,000,000 gallons capacity, belonging to the Burma Oil Company, was struck by lightning last Friday. It contained crude oil.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Manaar for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 4).

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool, October 6).

British India Line.—S.s. Manela for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 10); s.s. Nevasa for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 11).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan MacBrayne for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, October 2); s.s. Clan MacInnes for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, October 15).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Simla for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 30); s.s. City of Hong Kong for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 15).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Falernian for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Galatz, and Braila (London, October 18).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Tramore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 18); s.s. Sycamore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila. Closing November 5. (The last steamer of the season to Galatz and Braila.)

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Narkunda for Bombay (London, October 3); s.s. Khyber for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 4).

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

The Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of 75 iron safes in accordance with specification. Alternative quotations are desired, however, for 100 safes. Tenders must be submitted on the proper form, and will be received in Cairo up to noon on October 25 It is stipulated in the conditions of contract that the tenderer must be a person resident in Cairo or must have a representative in Cairo.

Soap. — The Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 110 tons of hard soap to Egyptian Army Supply Stores, Tura. December 2.

The Canadian Pacific Railway has prepared a useful booklet in connection with the Government scheme for the settlement of 3,000 families upon farm lands in Canada ready for occupation. The booklet, which is entitled "Your Chance to Own Your Farm," is illustrated with a large map and interesting photographs, and deals with the situation of the farms, the loans which will be made to settlers, the conditions of settlement, agriculture in Canada, etc. The booklet may be obtained free on application to the Canadian Pacific Railway, 62, Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Coffee.—The firm tone of last week has been more than maintained, owing to shortage of stocks. Santos is a further 1s. 6d. up at 104s.; Costa Rica has gone to 160s., with an average still at 150s., and Kenya has had an average of 136s., with ranges of 10s. either way.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair request at prices slightly lower than last week. Tate's cubes at 45s. 9d. (1s. down); London granulated at 40s. 4½d. (6d. down); Lyle's granulated, 40s. 7½d. Foreign descriptions have been firm, West Indian crystallised averaging 35s. 6d.; White Java, 36s. 4½d. Czech granulated at 39s. is 3d. down. Futures are about 1s. easier: October, 22s. 8d.; December, 20s. 3d.; March, 20s.

Maize.—After a rise the demand fell off. La Plata has been done at 43s. 6d. spot, at 44s. for October-November, and 44s. 6d. for November-December, with a downward tendency.

Currants.—Only a little business has been done in the old fruit, the market in general waiting for the new crop, the first consignment of which is on its way. The attitude towards the new season is cautious, but not without confidence. Part, at least, of the new fruit is known to be an improvement on last year's.

Sultanas.—The market in the new crop from Smyrna is firm, without much demand. There has been a good deal of Continental buying.

Figs.—Expectations of the new crop have not been realised in regard to the first consignment, owing to bad packing.

Plums.—The demand for plums has continued, with prices constant.

Oilcakes.—The steady tendency has been maintained: Linseed cake at 275s. and cottonseed cake at 185s.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. report as follows for the week ending September 6:—

The arrivals of sultanas on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are estimated at 13,000 tons, as compared with 6,757 tons for the similar period in 1923, and sales to date are put at 10,360, as compared with 5,382.

The market, on the whole, closed quieter. Business over the week was active, but arrivals, now at their heaviest point, are overlapping demand, permitting of some accumulation of stock. Decline in quotations in foreign currencies has been offset by the adverse tendency of exchange rates.

The fig market is steady. Government is controlling supplies to market, stopping arrivals on an over-accumulation of stocks. Supplies coming forward are adequate for all requirements, and Government intervention constitutes a healthy feature. The crop is estimated at about 100,000 loads, or, say, about 20 per cent. short of last year.

FIG-GROWING AS A LIVELIHOOD.

Throughout the Near and Middle East, or wherever the sounds of self-determination or the Geddes axe are still reverberating, the old question "What to do with our boys?" has given place to the far more pressing "What are retrenched British officials to do with themselves?" They have little desire to start office-work again; they do not want to be idle; they would much prefer to be "on their own" than in the employment of others. Little wonder in these circumstances that they are being encouraged to turn to an open-air life, and various countries are endeavouring to attract them as settlers. It is of little use to expect everyone to develop into an experienced farmer, but there are several ways in which any man of a practical turn of mind without an elaborate course of training can earn a livelihood from the soil. To orange-growing in South Africa or Kenya as one such way may be added fig-growing in Southern Texas, where the Magnolia fig industry has become a highly organised vocation. Facilities are provided for the immediate marketing of the figs, and they are preserved in the district where they grow. Preserving in this case does not mean compressing them dried into boxes, but bottling them skinless and practically seedless, in which state they become an article of consumption all the year round, and are not identified merely with Christmas fare.

As will be seen from an advertisement in this issue, the Land and Planting Syndicate, Ltd., is attracting settlers to the West Columbia Estates, in the Texas fig belt, and offering facilities to those who wish to take up fig-growing. The purchaser of fig orchards under this system has his land planted for him, with all the pioneer work, clearing, ploughing, planting, pruning, spraying, and cultivating, done for him until the end of the third year, when the orchard can be handed over scientifically developed and in a healthy and bearing condition. A four-year-old orchard is estimated to produce from 4,500 to 6,000 lb. of fruit per acre, and prices average from 120 dollars to 140 dollars per 2,000 lb. of ripe fruit, or, say, an initial return of £60 on an expenditure of £120 on every acre of orchard. The soil on the West Columbia Estates is recommended by the United States Department of Agriculture as productive of larger quantities of fruit than any other section of the fig belt. The fig is a long-lived tree, and if for commercial purposes it is not allowed to grow high enough to enable the owner to conform to the biblical precept of living under it, he can in Texas at least live by it.

Vickers, Limited, Hydro-Electric Department, have received an order from the Government of New Zealand for two large water turbines, output of each 12,650 horse power. These will be installed at Lake Coleridge in the South Island, and will provide power for Christchurch, Ashburton, Timaru and district. The turbines will be constructed at Barrow-in-Furness.

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YUGOSLAVIA'S FOREIGN TRADE.

Imports in March Quarter.

The British Commercial Secretary in Belgrade reports that according to a statement in the local press the import trade during the March quarter of the current year amounted to 204,971,986 kilogrammes, valued at 1,928,057,415 dinars, as compared with 209,795,012 kgs., valued at 1,913,443,860 dinars, in the corresponding quarter of 1923, while the exports during the period under review were valued at 2,061,738,454 dinars. It will thus be seen that the quarter's trade balance is a favourable one, to the extent of 133,321,039 dinars. The values of the principal imports were as follows, in dinars (average rate of exchange 355 dinars to £1) :—

Cotton fabrics, 397,596,000; woollen fabrics, 158,748,000; cotton yarns, 120,581,000; manufactured iron, 65,396,000; sugar, 57,397,000; raw cotton, 45,567,000; machines and apparatus, 43,754,000; iron, crude and half-manufactured, 38,694,000; coal, 37,581,000. Over 60 per cent. of the imports came from Czechoslovakia, Austria, and Italy, the respective shares being 412,269,946 dinars, 407,302,873 dinars, and 402,375,788 dinars. Other countries included: The United Kingdom. 188,680,308 dinars; Germany, 147,424,208 dinars; the United States, 72,582,091 dinars; France. 70,642,917 dinars; Greece, 57,287,315 dinars; Hungary, 36,540,116 dinars; and Roumania, 30,336,643 dinars.

It will be noted that the first place is taken by Czechoslovakia. Hitherto Austria and Italy have competed for first place, but now for the first time Czechoslovakia has gained it.

Certificates of Origin.

According to a circular issued in May by the Director-General of Customs, the Customs Houses of Yugoslavia shall only accept certificates of origin, in respect of goods imported into the Kingdom, bearing a statement by the owner of the goods or of the respective certificate, in his own writing, certifying that, accepting legal responsibility, he guarantees the authenticity of the certificate of origin, which he submits in the declaration as a proof that the goods originate in a country with which the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes has concluded a commercial treaty.

If the certificate is found not to be in order, the Customs authorities shall take measures against the persons responsible—i.e., they shall charge such persons before the competent courts with falsification—and, in addition, Customs duty on the goods covered by the certificate will be levied at the maximum tariff rates.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	248-253
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	316-320
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	23.58-23.66
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5⅝-1.5¾
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	90.15-90.75
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	865-890
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	340-350,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5⅝-1.5¾
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	815-830
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.45⅞-4.46
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	84.10-84.35
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	148½-149½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	101.65-90
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	605-615
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	312-320,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	23.15-23.45

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended September 20 states :—

A quiet state of affairs has prevailed; there has been a fairly good inquiry, but contracts have been difficult to arrange. Buyers appear to have satisfied their immediate requirements, and, in view of the general expectation of lower prices, it is not surprising that they postpone other operations. It should also be taken into account that both spinners and manufacturers here have improved their positions considerably during the past few weeks and are not so easy to deal with as they were.

Yarn.—There has been no development of importance in this section. The holidays at various centres are now over, and the production week by week will be larger and more regular. Whilst there has been no business of special interest, a number of small lots have been booked. Spinners hold firmly to their quotations, and the tone generally may be described as fairly satisfactory.

Cloth.—Inquiry has been on a good scale, but the results have not been commensurate therewith. Manufacturers are not so ready to make concessions as they were a little time ago: neither are they able to give such early deliveries. India has taken moderate quantities. but not very much has been done for China. A fair amount of business has been noted for smaller markets, such as South American and Egypt, and the same applies also to the home trade.

Raw Cotton.—During the early part of the week this market was again dropping rapidly, falls of 39, 26, and 33 points respectively taking place on Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday last. Since then prices have steadied owing to reports of heavy rains in the American cotton area, which it is thought may delay the gathering of the crop. A further Bureau report will be published on Tuesday next. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows :—American middling, 13.54; Egyptian fully good fair, 24.70.

This year 130,000 hectolitres of methylated spirit have been exported from Czecho-Slovakia compared with 10,000 hectolitres last year.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the eleven days ended August 31 amounted to £E8,773, making the total from April £E110,379.

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MAIL CONTRACTORS to the Governments of Iraq, Palestine & Egypt.—BAGHDAD, BEYROUTH & HAIFA.
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THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | **RESERVE - - - - £390,000**

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia:—
Chief Office, TEHERAN.
Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdah, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

LONDON, GREECE, EGYPT.

The only British Bank or Financial House in Greece originally established in London and the Ionian Islands in 1839, subsequently incorporated by Royal Charter in 1844, and registered under the Companies Acts in 1883. The Bank now has branches and correspondents throughout Old Greece, the Ionian Islands, Macedonia and the Islands recently rejoined to Greece; and is therefore able to offer special facilities to all British and Allied firms having business with that country.

In Egypt the Bank's principal office is at Alexandria; but it also has agencies throughout the cotton-growing districts, and specialises in all operations connected with the moving of the cotton crop.

In Turkey the Bank has a branch at Constantinople.

For information as to terms of business, etc., apply to the HEAD OFFICE:

BASILDON HOUSE, MOORGATE ST., LONDON, E.C.2.

Authorised Capital - - - - £600,000
Paid-up Capital - - - - £485,580
Reserve - - - - - - - - £170,000

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Incorporated and constituted in India under the Imperial Bank of India Act, 1920, for the purpose of taking over the undertakings and business of the Bank of Bengal, the Bank of Bombay and the Bank of Madras.

Local Head Offices:—

CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
S. A. H. SITWELL, Esq.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq., Offg.

London Manager:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.

Authorised Capital - - **Rs. 11.25.00.000**
Paid-up Capital - - **Rs. 5.62.50.000**
Reserve - - - - - **Rs. 4.57.50.000**

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Branches in all Principal Towns in India.
London Branch: 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... ... £4,000,000 | Paid-up Capital £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... ... £4,000,000 | Reserve Fund £2,750,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES.

Aden, Aden, Steamer Point, Amritsar, Bombay | Calcuttta, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Cochin (S. India) | Colombo, Delhi, Kandy, Karachi | Lahore, Madras, Mandalay, Newera Eliya | Rangoon, Tuticorin, Zanzibar | Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru (Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)) | Entebbe, Jinia, Kampala (Uganda)

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The Bank purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.

The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.

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Reserves 1,705,000 Leva.

Branches:
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Telegraphic Address:
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(A Limited Liability Company Registered in Athens.)

CAPITAL PAID UP - Drs. 25,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 18,103,997

The assets include securities worth £800,000, which are valued at Drs. 20,000,000; that is, at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larrissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea.

Associated Bank in London:

The Commercial Bank of the Near East, Ltd., with branch at Constantinople.

AGENTS IN ALL PARTS OF GREECE, THE LEVANT AND ABROAD.

The Bank conducts every kind of Banking and Stock Exchange business, and extends special facilities to merchants and traders interested in business with Greece. It acts as Agent for many Foreign Banks. It is specially organised for Exchange transactions, the execution of mail and cable transfers throughout Greece, and for the collection of clean and documentary Drafts and Bills.

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The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

BANK of ATHENS

Head Office: ATHENS.
ESTABLISHED 1893

BRANCHES IN GREECE, TURKEY, EGYPT, CYPRUS, LONDON AND NEW YORK.

Telegraphic Address: BANCATHEN.

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38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £3,900,000.

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THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
SIR ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
SIR WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, K.B.E.
THE RIGHT HON. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I.
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BATAVIA	HANKOW	NEW YORK	SOURABAYA
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	PEKING	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PENANG	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
CANTON	IPOH	PUKET	TIENTSIN
CAWNPORE	KARACHI	RANGOON	TOKYO
CEBU	KLANG	SAIGON	YOKOHAMA
COLOMBO	KOBE	SEMARANG (Java)	ZAMBOANGA (PhilippineIslands)
	KUALA LUMPUR		

Bankers.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.
WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED.
NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts and transact general business connected with the East, **DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.**

The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £340,000

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors:

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SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
J. H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
MEYER SASSOON, Esq.
SIR PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for 1 year and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application, and Current Accounts are opened by the Bank in London and at its Branches.

F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED

Head Office: LONDON.

(Affiliated with Barclays Bank, Ltd.).

EGYPT.—Alexandria, Cairo, Port-Said, Suez, Tantah, Zagazig, Mansourah, Assiut, Beni-Suef, Minieh.
SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nazareth. MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta, Gibraltar.

Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000 Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000
Reserve - - - - - - - £720,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - - - - - £3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - - £2,325,000

London Agency:

6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET, E.C.4.

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Bankers: THE NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

For further information apply to the
Director and General Manager,
MENZALEH CANAL & NAVIGATION CO.,
P.O. Box 290, PORT SAID, EGYPT.
TELEPHONE—626

P. & O.

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Steamer.	Tons.	London.	M'rse'ls.	Destination
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†KARMALA.....	9,000 ...	Sept. 26 ...	— ...	Straits, China, Japan
*MALOJA.....	21,000 ...	Sept. 26 ..	Oct. 3 ...	Colombo & Australia
NARK'NDA ...	16,000 ...	Oct. 3 ...	Oct. 10 ...	Bombay & Karachi
†KHYBER.....	9,000 ...	Oct. 4 ...	— ...	Colombo & Calcutta
*MANTUA	11,000 ...	Oct 10 ...	Oct. 17 ...	Straits, China Japan
NALDERA ...	16,000 ...	Oct. 17 ...	Oct 24 ...	Bombay & Karachi
†NYANZA	7,000 ...	Oct. 18 ...	— ...	Colombo & Calcutta

* Taking passengers for Bombay, via Aden. † Calling at Malta.

BRITISH INDIA SAILINGS.
(Under Contract with the Govts. of India and Queensland.)

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MODASA	8,986 ...	—	... Sept 27 ...	Madras and Calcutta
MADURA	8,975 ...	—	... Oct. 2 ...	East African Ports
¶MANELA	8,303 ...	—	... Oct. 1 ...	Bombay & Karachi
†NEVASA.....	9,071 ...	Sept. 27 ...	Oct. 11 ...	Madras & Calcutta
MARGHA.....	8,258 ...	Oct. 11 ...	Oct. 24 ...	Bombay & Karachi
*§PERIM	7,626 ...	Oct. 11 ...	Oct. 29 ...	Queensland Ports
†DUMANA	8,600 ...	Oct. 11 ...	Oct. 25 ...	Madras & Calcutta

Ships marked § will not take passengers. ¶ Calls Malta.
* From Avonmouth Oct. 4; Immingham, Oct. 18.
† Leaving Antwerp one week after Middlesbrough date.

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City of Nagpur	10,138	Oct. 4	Bombay and Karachi
City of Paris	10,902	Oct. 15	Bombay and Karachi
§City of Hong Kong	10,089	Oct. 16	Colombo and Calcutta
*City of Genoa	6,399	Oct. 22	Bombay and Karachi

* Calls Port Sudan. † Via Marseilles.
§ Calling Madras.

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City of Baroda	9,670	Nov. 15	

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THE NEAR EAST

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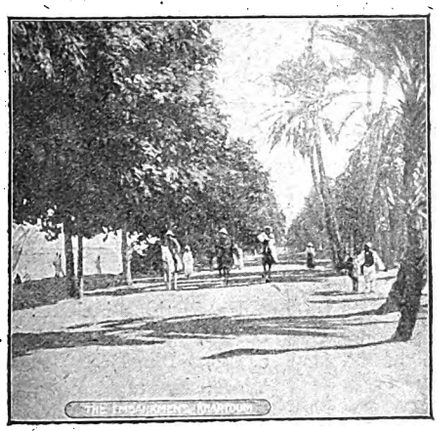

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Capital Subscribed	£71,864,780	Reserve Fund	£10,000,000
Capital Paid up	£14,372,956	Deposits, &c.	£336,132,554

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EGYPT.—ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO (2 Offices), BENHA, BENI SUEF, FAYOUM, MEHALLA KEBIR, MINIEH, TANTA, WASTA.

Full particulars can be obtained from any of the Bank's Branches.

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City Office: 10/12, Copthall Avenue, E.C.2.

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Subscribed Capital - - - £650,000
Paid-up Capital - - - £130,000

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Chairman, The Hon. EVELYN HUBBARD.
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S. J. COHEN, Esq., P. LYTTELTON GELL, Esq.
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Reference to the particulars below will give an idea of the Corporation's activities. Correspondence is invited from wholesale merchants, and may be addressed to the Corporation or direct to the Branches. Inquiries and applications for samples will receive immediate attention.

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CAWNPOREWOOLLEN MILLS CO., CAWNPORE

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 699—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Zaghloul Pasha in London.

Whatever may be the outcome of the conversations between Saad Pasha Zaghloul and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, the wisdom of the meeting of the two Prime Ministers has been at once established. Not only has Zaghloul Pasha expressed himself as well content with the course of the opening discussion, but there has also been a welcome change in Egypt from the strained atmosphere of the last few months. Whether the new spirit will be proof against any serious disappointment remains to be seen. It would seem to be now admitted in responsible circles in Egypt that the country would be quite prepared to follow its Prime Minister in any decision that he takes, if only it were spared attempts in irresponsible quarters to excite its fanaticism. In other words, if Zaghloul Pasha is given a chance of being the first to announce in Egypt the terms on which a treaty with Great Britain is possible, and is able to say at the same time that he considers those terms in all the circumstances acceptable and the best that Egypt can expect to obtain, the country will welcome the settlement, and all will be well. If, on the other hand, the terms are first announced in London or reach Egypt otherwise than by word of mouth from Zaghloul Pasha, and the Press, particularly the Opposition Press, elects to denounce them and to try to make capital out of them, it is certain that Zaghloul Pasha will himself make no effort to plead the cause of a settlement with Great Britain. It is to be hoped, therefore, that both the Egyptian and the British Press will study the interests of Anglo-Egyptian relations, and in the event of a favourable issue to the conversations refrain from an attempt to probe behind whatever *communiqué* may be issued, until Zaghloul Pasha is able to give a personal lead to the attitude of the Egyptian public.

Frontier Bluff.

The proceedings at Geneva, where the Council of the League was to determine the point at issue between Great Britain and Turkey regarding the delimitation of the Turco-Iraqi frontier, have been interrupted by Turkey's military violation of a section of the frontier in regard to which there was no possibility of any misunderstanding on the part of the Turkish Government. Whatever may be the extent of Turkey's claims in regard to the Mosul vilayet, the fact remains that in July, 1923, by the Treaty of Lausanne, she agreed not to interfere with the *status quo* as it then was, before a settlement had been reached with Great Britain. A stretch of territory in which some Assyrian Christians had resettled in 1921 proved too attractive a Naboth's vineyard to allow her to keep her pledged word for long. At the Constantinople conference Fethy Bey was reminded a second time that Great Britain could not allow the Turks to interfere with the Assyrians, and he was informed that the British Government would consider any proposals that Turkey might make for compensation elsewhere. The Turks, however, refused to discuss any kind of settlement of the dispute, and the whole question is now in the hands of the League of Nations, which is unlikely to encourage Turkey in the open violation of her Treaty pledges.

Politics in Yugoslavia.

M. Petrovitch, Minister of the Interior in the Yugoslav Cabinet, has had a meeting with M. Raditch in Zagreb, as a result of which, it is stated, representatives of the Croatian Peasant Party will take their seats in the Government. A speech by M. Raditch on this occasion would seem to be the most statesmanlike utterance that he has ever made. He is stated to have expressed his acceptance of a monarchy and parliamentary institutions on English lines, which would leave the sovereignty of the people unchallenged. Such a parliamentary monarchy was essential for modern socialistic development and modern progress. He urged that Parliament and Crown must support the democratic and parliamentary régime in complete agreement, and stipulated that there must be no room for backstairs politics. As far as the Croatian Peasant Party was concerned, the agreement with the Government was no tactical move, but represented the settled conviction of the Croatian people, because the interests of Croats, Serbs, and Slovenes were not only analogous, but actually identical. The speech, as reported, sug-

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gests that M. Petrovitch encountered a very different Raditch from the one that the Yugoslav people had expected, from the statements of the Radical Press, to see return from Moscow.

Military Discipline in Greece.

Opinion in Greece is inclined to consider that the country has added to its troubles by the acquittal of Generals Tseroulis and Panagiotopoulos on the charge of high treason. The two officers are said to have admitted in court that they had been responsible for the distribution of seditious pamphlets, but they were found not guilty of conspiracy. From this verdict it is inferred that military authority still exercises a paramount influence in Greek politics, and it must be admitted that in the absence of a fuller statement of the court's findings it is difficult to understand how the offence fell short of conspiracy. The Government, under pressure of public opinion, has announced its intention of taking the severest disciplinary measures against the two Generals, who were, indeed, found guilty of a grave breach of military discipline by the Court In a country where treason has had such a long run it would have been almost unfair to resort to extreme measures against an unsuccessful imitation: but it would have been expected that the responsible Court would have recognised conspiracy when it saw it and have left it to the Government to exercise what leniency it considered the conditions of the period required. Everyone will be glad that Greece has been spared further capital punishment for political offences, but it is time that the Greek army realised that it ought to have nothing to do with politics.

Wahhabis in the Hejaz.

Reports from the Hejaz these days have probably to be received with some reserve, but there would seem to be little doubt that, after a brief rest in Taif, awaiting reinforcements, the Wahhabis are reconnoitring in the direction of Mecca. The rapidity with which the Hejaz Government has thrown up the sponge in the face of a foe handicapped by having to advance for a month or so across the desert is eloquent of the precarious position that the ruler who claimed the title of King of the Arabs actually held. King Hussein's stand against the Turks at the outbreak of the Great War deserved a better ending. His unpopularity among his own people, however, is responsible for the success of the Wahhabis. So far the fighting in the Hejaz is a domestic concern of Arabians. British subjects are to be found in Mecca, and Jeddah is the residence of a British Consul; but until there is evidence to show that her subjects are in danger of molestation Great Britain has no call for intervention. She tried to bring about good relations between Nejd and the Hejaz at the Koweit Conference, but the failure of King Hussein to send a representative to the meeting probably embittered the Sultan Ibn Saud still more. The latter has not yet officially identified himself with the invasion of the Hejaz. If Mecca, however, should fall into the hands of the Wahhabis he would not be likely to disclaim responsibility for the punishment of the claimant to the Khalifate.

INDIA.

The Indian Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly has been having a busy and what we should call a very human session at Simla. Having begun by dissociating itself from the report of the Lee Commission, it has expressed its desire to kill the taxation inquiry and to repeal the Criminal Law Amendment Act, while, on the other hand, it has passed a resolution designed to "ginger up" the Government in its declared policy of abolishing the cotton excise, and it has reached an agreed solution of the vexed question of railway finance. We have indicated on a previous occasion our view of the taxation inquiry, and we shall not be very sorry if it is abandoned. The power to proclaim associations as illegal, which is the essence of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, seems, however, to be essential. Its withdrawal is urged on the ground that India is now in a normal condition. On that point we must presumably accept the view of the Indian majority in the Assembly, but if organised bomb-throwing in Bengal, something very like rebellion in the Punjab, and religious fighting all over the country are to be taken as normal, the logical conclusion is that the Act should be made normal also, and incorporated in the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Railways and Politics.

When the committee of the Assembly first condemned the Acworth scheme designed to take the railways out of politics, we described its action as a muddle-headed expression of a natural instinct. A period of eager negotiation followed, and now a compromise has been reached, which is being represented as the triumph of reason, but in our view it is one of those triumphs where the victor pays the indemnity. The railways are indeed to be run as a business, but the business must be run on political rather than commercial lines. The Commissioner may want to buy stores in the cheapest market, but he has to give a preference to Indian products. He may want to employ the most efficient staff, but, instead, he is expected to "Indianise." He may want to lease a line to a company, but, again, there is an assurance in the way. The Assembly knows quite enough of practical politics to work these assurances for at least as much as they are worth, and we fear the Commissioner will find himself as much hampered as his predecessors have been by the exponents of the policy fashionable at the moment, which consists in dissipating solid assets through a variety of quasi-philanthropical channels.

The Taxpayers' Share.

The most significant feature of the compromise is the increase in the railway contribution to the general Budget, which Sir Charles Innes justified on the ground that current railway earnings are, happily, well in excess of the estimate. This argument seems to us to give away the whole case for separation of the Budgets, because it will certainly be used as a precedent in the near future. The original scheme provided that the railways should have the benefit of increased earnings, but when the taxpayers' right to share in them has once been admitted, we do not see how further claims, which are certain to be made, can be summarily rejected. This year the commercial lines are to pay 1 per cent. on their capital. Presently the popular party will ask for 2 per cent., there will be friendly negotions, the difference will be split, and we shall gradually get back to the old plan in which the taxpayers' share of net earnings was determined by haggling every year. The whole story may serve to bring out the fundamental truth, which enthusiasts for commercialisation sometimes overlook, that taxpayers who own railways have the last word as to the disposal of the profits. If they like, they can put profits back into the business, but nobody can force them to do so against their will.

Lord Thomson, Secretary of State for Air, after visiting Aboukir Aerodrome, left on September 24 for Cairo. From there he flew to Baghdad. He is due back at Alexandria to-day, and will embark for England in the Triestino Lloyd on October 4.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Britain and Russia.

Although it is over the question of Ireland that Parliament is meeting to-day, it is Russia and the proposed Treaty with her that are occupying most of the public attention. There is much wild talk about it from either side. There is the General Seely attitude of mind, which appears to imagine that anyone prepared to have any dealings at all with Soviet Russia is a moral Bolshevist, and there is the Mr. Ponsonby attitude of mind, which attributes any criticism of the Labour Government's Treaty to White Russian intrigue.

These attitudes are in the main childish, although in extenuation of the first may be preferred the undoubted fact that the real objection of Englishmen to treating with Soviet Russia is, where it exists at all, at bottom moral. The anti-Soviet people feel, simply, perhaps ignorantly, but nevertheless profoundly, that the Bolshevist is a man not to be trusted. And to represent this feeling as the product of "White" propaganda is absurd.

With the Liberal objection, an objection, that is, that is one of detail rather than of principle, the sponsors of the Treaty may, when Parliament assembles to discuss it, find it easier to deal. In his speech on Saturday the Prime Minister admitted much of the force of the "moderate" objection that adequate safeguards would have to be given before a loan was granted, and foreshadowed the possibility of amendments to the Treaty sufficient to get it through a critical House. But it need not be taken for granted that the Russian Treaty is as good as passed. If the older parties choose to make an election cry of it, their task is easy. The benefit that such an election would bring to us is, however, very questionable.

Home at Last?

It can scarcely be said that the Conservative Party lighted beacon fires to welcome Mr. Winston Churchill home, for he has slipped into the fold of these good fellows with remarkable restraint of emotion on their part. The fact of his adoption as a full-blown or full-blowing Conservative candidate for an Essex constituency comes about rather through his own exertions than through any pull of the Central Organisation. For the Conservative Party, less than any other party, likes "unsafe" men, and to talk of it as Mr. Churchill's spiritual home is far too pathetic to be true.

It was noticeable that Mr. Churchill, in his opening speech, had, although he is a thinker, nothing new to say. Socialism was *the* danger; no large practical measure separated the Conservative and Liberal Parties; Protection was for the time being dead, but he was a fool who would not avail himself of the Safeguarding of Industries Act; the attack from within on the institutions of the British Empire was imminent, and so rhetorically on. All this is very familiar, and in itself there is not much to be said against it. And if one likes Mr. Churchill in politics one will gratefully accept it all.

But the trouble is that the country does not like him. There is no one who does not acknowledge his ability, an ability far superior, indeed, to that of any man in the present Conservative Party. But this anti-Labour drum is over-banged, and one knows that, were he to be elected to Parliament, he himself would soon grow tired of its monotony and set up some other terrific illusion (supposing, that is, it were necessary to his immediate purpose). On his persistence in alleging that no real issue separates Conservative from Liberal there is nothing to say, except that it is repudiated by both parties alike as coming from one who is in fact neither Conservative nor Liberal. What he says is superficially, of course, true. There is at the moment scarcely a major issue on which the older parties are fundamentally divided. The difference, still and really existing, is one of outlook, more mental than actual.

The Parties.

Many men of all three parties are talking of an early election; outside opinion, however, inclines to the belief that there will be no election this year. But the Conservative and Labour Parties particularly are getting to work. Of the Labour Conference one may talk next week, but one hardly looks forward with hope to the results of the Conservative Party's Conference this week at Newcastle. Apart from the suggestion—recently commented on in this column—that there should be more working class candidates, and that the party should generally become more democratic, the profoundest thought of this party appears to be that it should alter its name from "Unionist" to "Conservative."

Into the more progressively minded this last suggestion has struck horror. They see in it the stark hand of reaction, blindly and negatively holding up its hand to the oncoming force of Labour. This, of course, is a superficial reading, and "Conservative" is a much more accurate title than "Unionist." In a few weeks, maybe, "Unionist" will have little meaning in this country, whereas there will always be some institutions in Britain worth the conserving. The whole trouble with the party of the Right is that they could not agree on what those institutions were.

Promenade Concerts.

There is a rumour that the Promenade Concerts which Sir Henry Wood has for twenty odd years faithfully given to the British public may be discontinued. Most people are duly lamenting the prospect, and undoubtedly these concerts would be very greatly missed. Whether the reason is an economic one—it is said that only well-known music gets much chance now owing to the cost of the rehearsal of new music—or whether it results from a natural fatigue on the part of the conductor I do not know. Since the War the first reason has become the most urgent of all problems connected with music.

From the strictly musical point of view the discontinuance of the "Proms." would perhaps be no bad thing. Every night the programme had, in the second half, to be disgraced by the singing of some piffling "ballad"; and every night one might hear the most undiscriminating applause. Those who attend these concerts are, however, the most faithful and kind-hearted of mortals, and it is difficult to see where else in London their beneficent praise could be bestowed.

Mr. F. H. Bradley, O.M.

So soon after he was granted the Order of Merit—it was but last June—Mr. F. H. Bradley, the most distinguished English philosopher of our time, perhaps of any time since Hume, has died. Of his greatness there is no question. And it was a characteristically English greatness. Bradley, who, of course, derived, as it seems nearly all English philosophers tend to derive, from the German Idealists, built up no philosophical system; his writings were essentially the result of reflection, and this is precisely what they caused. Just as he took from Hegel not dogma but stimulus, he provokes his reader not to disagreement but to deeper thought. Even in his more speculative flights he does not so loose the reins of imagination as to offend the more practicallly minded, but keeps

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his feet firmly in the stirrups of sentiment and fact. And he was in possession of sentiments and facts not too commonly shown in philosophers. There is, for example, a passage in his "Appearance and Reality" where, in talking of the chances of a future life, he notes that "there are those who would not sit down among the angels till they had recovered their dog." That he himself was such a one does not depreciate from the justness and sanity of the remark.

September.

September, of all months, has played us false, and weighed down, as one must suppose, with the grief of her preceding sister months, has wept on us the most persistent and copious tears, with hardly a hint of the "conspiring sun." Grey skies have reached the climax in depression; ruined harvests were never a more melancholy sight; sodden—but enough!—October is now on us, and hope has for the last time invaded our dejected heads. If St. Luke and All Saints and St. Martin do not duly retrieve the reputation of the past summer, we shall all consider emigration. But if the "little summers" of autumn are as fine as they can be, all may yet be well with England.

Lord Long.

It is not wonder but lament that one is prompted to by the passing from our political life of Lord Long. For he cut no great figure; he attained really to no eminence. There was in him no consuming flame by which he could at once scorch his opponents up and illumine the path of his own party. But he was a real Englishman, in whom the fires of patriotism and of Conservatism glowed steadily and dutifully. His type will, one must presume, be seen less and less in politics, not only because it made the possession of soundness rather than of ability its first requisite, but because the lover of the countryside is becoming less and less attracted to politics.

Alter Ego.

An American Fellowship Group, composed of professors, authors, clergymen, and business men, visited Roumania last month, and were given a hearty reception by the Roumanian authorities.

The Bulgarian Minister in Berlin has protested against the projected performance of Bernard Shaw's play, "Arms and the Man," as being offensive to his country. The performance, however, will take place.

At the request of the Italian Government, the opening of the negotiations at Venice between Italy and Yugoslavia, originally fixed for October 1, has been postponed for ten days.

An Albanian raid, for the purpose of kidnapping shepherdesses and stealing cows, across the frontier near Vermosh, provoked a counter-raid by Montenegrins of the Kucha tribe, who killed several Albanians. Order has been restored.

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THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The Anglo-Egyptian Association, which was formed last May, consists of past and present British Government officials, and has as its object the bringing into closer touch those who have settled in Great Britain, Ireland, or abroad, and those who still remain in Egypt. This purpose is admirably practical, and, since the association maintains regular communication with the association of British officials of the Egyptian Government in Cairo, much useful and urgent work may be performed. The names of those serving on the General Committee are alone sufficient indication of the necessity and nature of the association:—General Congreve, Sir Ernest Dowson, C. E. Dupuis, Sir Maurice FitzMaurice, Colonel Gathcart Garner, G. H. Griffith, the Rev. C. T. Horan, J. Langley, A. T. Loyd, Colonel H. G. Lyons, A. F. MacCullan, Sir Murdoch MacDonald, General Maxwell, R. E. Monteith Smith, Major Ormsby-Gore, A. E. Robinson, J. A. Spender, Lt.-Colonel J. K. Watson, Leo Weinthal, and Lewen B. Wilson. The offices of the association are at 12, Holborn Viaduct, E.C.1, and the annual subscription is £1.

OBITUARY.

Surgeon-General William Richard Browne, C.I.E., M.D., died in Switzerland on September 16, at the age of 74, after a distinguished career in the Indian Medical Service, which he joined fifty-one years ago.

The death is announced from Belgrade of M. Slobedan Ribnikar, the owner of the *Politika*, one of the most important Serbian daily newspapers. M. Ribnikar founded the paper with his two brothers, who both died on the same day in September, 1914, on the battlefield.

The death occurred on September 19 of Sir Reginald Pole-Carew, K.C.B., C.V.O. He went through the whole of the campaign in the Afghan War of 1878, and accompanied General Roberts on the march from Kabul to Kandahar. In 1882 he saw service in Egypt, and later occupied many important military posts in India.

Sir Arthur Robert Anderson, who died at a nursing home in London on September 24, was born in 1860, and was identified for the greater part of his life with Indian railways. Educated at Glasgow Academy and University as a civil engineer, he became Chief Engineer to the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway in 1897, which position he held until 1908, when he became General Manager. He became a member of the Indian Railway Board in 1914 and chairman 1919-20, being largely instrumental in bringing the Indian railway strike to a conclusion.

A correspondent sends us the following information from the *Izvestiya*:—"The death is announced from Moscow of Professor Mikhail ben Yusuf Attoya, Professor of Arabic in Lazarewsky Institute. He was born in Damascus in 1852 and educated in the American College at Beyrout. He was sentenced to death by the Turks for his articles in the Arabic Press against despotism, and arrived as a political refugee in Russia in 1873. He was the author of a Russian-Arabic Grammar, a Russian-Arabic Dictionary, besides being the translator into Arabic of much political writing. He was the first director of the Lazarewsky Institute under the Soviets, and many of his pupils are well-known in Europe."

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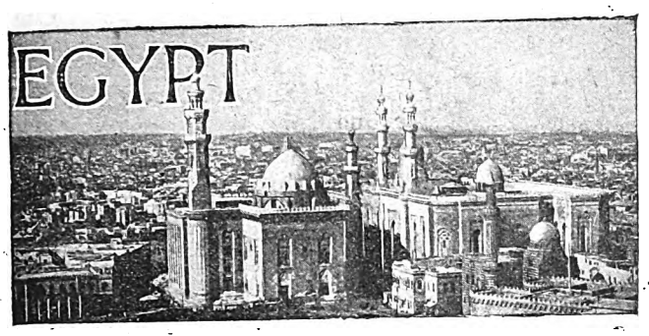
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, September 19.

The Italian "Crisis."

Every week seems to bring its crisis, and the week that has just come to an end has been no exception. The only difference to its predecessors is, however, that the last crisis appears to have existed solely in the imagination of the local Press and the representatives of certain London papers. This crisis centred round the question of the Tripoli frontier, which has for some time been under discussion between the Egyptian and the Italian Governments, and in regard to which it was recently decided to set up a *modus vivendi* for the control of a temporary frontier, pending a propitious moment for settling the whole question.

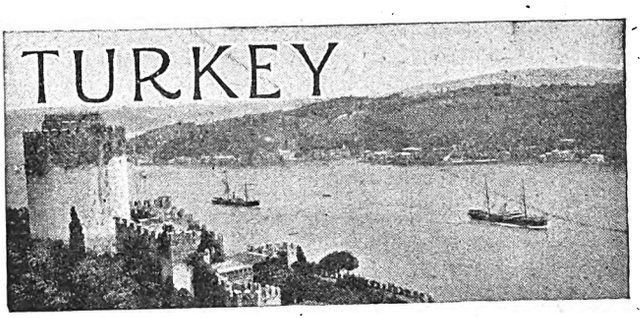
Suddenly last week-end the local Press—and the worst offenders were the papers known as the Government organs—began to publish the most alarming accounts of the progress of the discussion. They declared that Italy had made impossible demands with regard to the fixation of even the temporary frontier, that she had massed troops in close proximity to the frontier, that she was on the point of occupying Sollum and the oasis of Djarbub, the possession of both of which is in dispute, and, finally, that Mussolini was sending a fleet to Alexandria in order to compel Egypt to comply with his demands. The publication of these statements was accompanied by comments that were, to say the least of them, unfriendly to Italy, and that much upset the Italian community. They also created a good deal of uneasiness, and, in spite of what, to any ordinary person, would at once have appeared to be an utter absurdity, they were widely believed.

It was not until the Government somewhat belatedly issued a *communiqué* showing that there was not the slightest foundation for all the pother and alarm which the Press had created, and that negotiations were going on between the two Governments in quite the most amicable manner, that feeling was calmed, but the whole affair made a very bad impression on the foreign communities in general. While this incident is a revelation of the irresponsible manner in which events are treated in this country by certain newspapers which ought to know better, and of the readiness with which to-day the worst is believed when a foreign country or a foreigner is concerned, it is indeed incredible that the Government should have allowed the Press, particularly its own organs, which led the band, to continue what has proved to be an entirely mendacious campaign against a Power with whom it not only has always been on the most friendly terms—*vide* the warm telegrams exchanged on every available occasion by King Fuad with King Victor Emmanuel and other members of the Italian Royal Family—but with whom it was actually at the time in close and friendly negotiation. It has been altogether a most stupid affair, and it is almost impossible to explain the object of this outburst. Certainly it has done no good to the cause of Egypt, and, as one of the local Italian papers points out, the sole result appears to have been that the Italians have had afforded them proof of the extent to which Egyptian friendship can be relied upon, and that the Egyptians have alienated in a very great measure the goodwill of a people that has hitherto been regarded as exceedingly sympathetic towards them and their aspirations.

The Hejaz.

The developments in the Hejaz are being watched with great interest, but so far little can be ascertained beyond the facts that Taif has fallen, that the Wahabis are still in the vicinity of that town, and that the Hejazis are preparing to defend the Holy Places. The absence of news is all the more extraordinary seeing that Egypt is in fairly close contact with Jedda and ports on the Red Sea. The attacks on the Hejaz have clearly shown that King Hussein does not enjoy a good Press in this country. The incidents in connection with the pilgrimage and his pretensions to the Khalifate seem to be responsible for the lack of sympathy with which his difficulties are greeted in Egypt.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.



Constantinople, September 23.

The President's Tour.

The travels of the President of the Republic in the eastern vilayets have given the population of Trebizond and other towns the opportunity of de-

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monstrating their attachment to his person and to the State, and have also been the object of much conjecture on the part of persons who believe that the President's interest in that area is not entirely unconnected with the recent uprising in the Caucasus. Be that as it may, his trip along the coast to Rize has been shortened by his decision to go to Erzeroum and the neighbouring districts affected by the succession of earthquake shocks on the 13th and the following days.

The Rising in the Caucasus.

The situation in the Caucasus remains obscure, although there is every reason to suppose that the insurrection has been unsuccessful, and, as far as the plains and the main lines of communication are concerned, has already been stamped out. The condition of Transcaucasia must always be a matter of great interest to the Turkish Government, for it is a matter of common knowledge that the relations between Moscow and Angora are unsatisfactory, and that the chief bone of contention is the Caucasus frontier and cognate problems. The Soviets are not happy about the security of their Caucasian possessions, and are anxious to obtain a frontier which is strategically sounder than the present one; this can be done only at the expense of Turkey. The Turks, on the other hand, are suspected by the Soviets, and probably with reason, of fomenting pro-Turk, Pan-Islamic, anti-Soviet propaganda among their "blood-brothers," the Turco-Tartars of Azerbaijan. The importance of the matter lies in the fact that Baku is a prize worth fighting for; it is keeping Russia's head above water in the economic struggle, and the Turks might be excused for thinking that its possession would help to solve many of their more pressing economic problems. The Russian Government is reported to have telegraphed to Angora to thank the Turkish Government for its neutrality during the recent insurrection in the Caucasus, and the mere fact of its having done so is an illuminating comment upon the state of relations between the two Republics.

The Mosul Question.

The columns of the local Press have been full during the past week of the Turkish memorandum to the League of Nations on the subject of Mosul. Reduced to the lowest common denominator, the memorandum consists of a plea for a plebiscite in the Mosul Vilayet. The ethnological arguments and the quotations from the "Encyclopædia Britannica" make tolerable debating matter, which can be used by both sides with equally good effect, but when it comes to practical measures the real issue lies between a plebiscite and the decision of a neutral arbiter. One would have thought that the experience of plebiscites during the post-War years would have put the whole world off that method of deciding disputes for the next hundred years. This much is satisfactory, however: the Turks have had the wisdom to treat the League Council as a force to be reckoned with, and have to a certain extent justified their newly-found civilisation by an appeal to the League.

Local Affairs.

Local affairs in Constantinople present no new and especially startling features. The normal polemic between the newspapers and the authorities is pursuing its weary way; nobody has yet decided whether the late Vali, who was so ignominiously dismissed for mobilising the city's defence forces in the middle of the night, was drunk on the night of the event, or was merely a scapegoat for higher authority. The latest news is that a bold man has been found to take on the vacant job. Needless to say, all the projects for the *relèvement économique* of the city and the port are still in the theoretical stage.

The British Colony.

The British Colony is setting a good example to all the foreign inhabitants by going about the business of amusing itself with all due seriousness. The Cricket Club has played a good deal of cricket, although it has had to be sufficient unto itself. The Association Football Club has arranged a long list of fixtures with the best local clubs, and, thanks to the fact that it now has a ground of its own, it is able to pick and choose its opponents. The Hockey Club has constituted itself and is ready for the coming season; and golf is always with us. Altogether, it may be said that our compatriots are not allowing commercial depression and political difficulties to interfere unduly with the real business of life, which is to enjoy it.

PERSIA.

Teheran, September 10.

The New Cabinet.

Last Saturday week the Prime Minister presented his new Ministry to the Crown Prince, and the following day to the Mejliss. It is composed as follows, Sardar Sepah himself retaining the Premiership and Ministry of War:—

Moshar ul Mulk	Minister for Foreign Affairs.
Zoka ul Mulk	Minister of Finance.
Sardar Assad	Minister of Posts and Telegraphs.
Sardar Moazzam Khorassani	Minister of Public Works.
Amir Eghtedar	Minister of the Interior.
Adib es Saltaneh	Minister of Justice.
Moshar ed Dowleh	Acting Minister of Public Instruction.

Besides the Prime Minister, two of the above held office in the previous Cabinet, Zoka ul Mulk having been Minister of Finance and Amir Eghtedar having held the portfolio of Posts and Telegraphs. The new members are nearly all men of previous experience in public affairs, and the Ministry is, on the whole, well received. The Shah, in his reply to Sardar Sepah's telegram advising him of its formation, expressed his pleasure and approval.

The Northern Oil Concession.

Matters with regard to the Northern Oil Concession appear to have come to a deadlock, and

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the Sinclair Company do not now seem over-anxious to take the concession, and the dependent loan of 10,000,000 dollars in consequence of the disquietude caused by the recent murder of the American Consul, and in view of the rumoured possibility of the withdrawal of the American financial advisers, seems highly improbable at the present juncture.

London to Quetta Overland.

Major Forbes-Leith, who is making the first overland journey from England to India, arrived here from Baghdad some days ago and is continuing in a day or two via Yezd. Kerman, and Duzdab to Quetta, his objective, having been delayed here by the illness of his two companions, his diarist and the Pathé cinema operator, who has been filming the trip and scenes and celebrities *en route*. The 14 h.p. Wolseley car "Felix II." seems little the worse for its 6,500 miles across France, North Italy, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Asia Minor, Syria, and Mesopotamia, and the fact that so far there has been only one puncture speaks well for the Rapson tyres with which the car is fitted.

The Prime Minister.

Sardar Sepah left town a few days ago and, in his capacity as Minister of War and Commander-in-Chief, is paying a visit to the troops operating in the Luristan district.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, September 16.

The Forests.

Several more forest fires have occurred, but, fortunately, not on a large scale. The Commission appointed to inquire into the subject of their prevention consists of the Acting Chief Secretary, the King's Advocate, and the Chief Commandant of Police. They have begun work at the summer quarters of the fortunate officials who go annually to Mt. Troödos and enjoy the cool breezes over 5,000 feet above the sea, amidst lofty pines. Those consulted include the Commissioners of the six administrative districts, the local Commandants of Police, and the Assistant Principal Forest Officer. It is believed that one of the principal subjects of discussion relates to the burning question whether or not greater grazing facilities should be granted to flock-owners, in view of the irreparable destruction caused by goats. The Principal Forest Officer, Dr. Unwin, who has, by the way, sent a good exhibit of Cyprus timbers to Wembley, and would have sent much more had space permitted, has worked unremittingly, and takes a keen interest in the future of the island forests, is, of course, the chief adviser. The Greek Press severely criticises the Government for not having appointed any Greeks as members of the Commission.

Cyprus and Wembley.

The High Commissioner, Sir Malcolm Stevenson, who has taken great interest in the Empire Exhibition from the early days when a Cyprus-Palestine Pavilion was agreed to, and who visited and approved of the site in 1923, has been pleased with the results, and with the efforts of those responsible for carrying out the scheme. He would give his full support if the Pavilion were re-opened next year, and in that case to a considerable enlargement, which is certainly needed for further exhibits. This year's experience has shown that many of the island products could be profitably sold. Among them may be mentioned articles of silk, bags and purses of lamb's skin, *Rahat-Lokoum*, and sweets made from the grape. One of the Greek papers has published statements disparaging the present Pavilion, and the output; but the general opinion of visitors appears to be that nothing better could have been achieved with the fund available.

Visions of an Agricultural Bank.

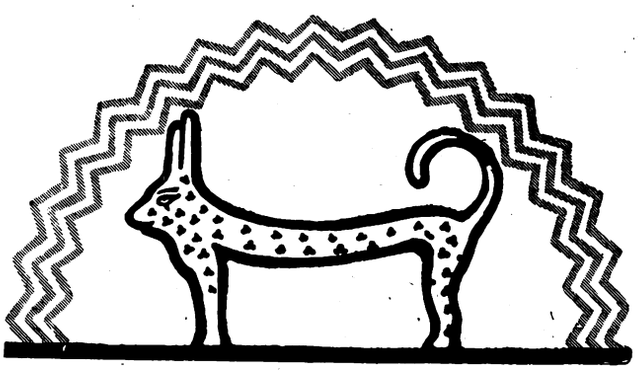
The hopes, which had almost entirely vanished, have been revived, and it is now rumoured that a bank is likely to be established early next year. The Agricultural Bank founded by Sir William Willcocks, under the auspices of the Egyptian Land Allotment Company, at Famagusta, has not fulfilled the hopes that were raised, and it is said that it is likely to be closed in the near future. It has been under the able management of Mr. B. Amiryan, who has an intimate knowledge of Cyprus finances and affairs. It is to be hoped that his valuable experience and advice will long be available. Owing to the plight of the farmers, there have been many late cases of insolvency in both town and country, and recourse has been had to a Bankruptcy Act which was passed in 1919, and affords some relief in hard cases. It is to be hoped that the rumour will prove correct, as the creation of a credit bank stands first in the claims and petitions of the rural classes throughout the island.

General News.

It is said that several British officials will be transferred to other colonies before the end of the year.

Under a new regulation the King's Advocate (whose salary is now £1,200 a year) is not allowed to carry on private practice, as has been hitherto the case.

Strong objections are made to the appointment of Mr. Noble, lately Assistant Principal Forest Officer, as Director of Agriculture. It is urged that this appointment should be given to a Greek, as it was to the predecessors of Mr. W. Bevan—viz., M. P. Gennadius and M. Saracoménos.



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THE BRITISH WORLD FLIGHT.

The story of the British attempt at flight round the world which, six months ago, Squadron-Leader Maclaren, Flying-Officer Plenderleith, and Sergeant Andrews so gallantly made was told at a luncheon given on September 25 in their honour at the Hotel Cecil by the chairmen and directors of Vickers, Limited, D. Napier and Son, Limited, and Shell-Mex, Limited. Sergeant Andrews was unable, owing to illness consequent on exposure on the flight, to be present. Commander Sir Trevor Dawson, vice-chairman and managing director of Vickers, Limited, presided over a large company, which included Capt. H. E. P. D. Acland, Comdr. A. de Bahr, Wing-Comdr. W. G. Barker, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., Air-Commodore A. E. Borton, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., A.F.C., Lt.-Col. the Hon. S. P. Bouverie, D.S.O., Sq.-Ldr. Sir C. J. Q. Brand, K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Lt.-Col. W. A. Bristow, F. Crossley Broome, Esq., D.F.C., A.F.C., Mons. Demetrius Caclamanos, Sir Vincent Caillard, D.L., Dr. P. Chalmers Mitchell, LL.D., F.R.S., the Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes, P.C., M.P., Wm. Clynes, Esq., Capt. S. Cockerell, A.F.C., the Hon. H. P. Colebatch, C.M.G., Air-Commodore B. C. H. Drew, C.M.G., C.B.E., Geo. Fairbairn, Esq., C. R. Fairey, Esq., M.B.E., Philip S. Foster, Esq., Air-Vice-Marshal P. I. Game, C.B., D.S.O., Capt. Victor Gordon, F. H. Halford, Esq., Baron Gonsuke Hayashi, G.C.V.O., Air-Comdr. T. C. R. Higgins, C.M.G., Brig.-Gen. Sir C. Holden, K.C.B., F.R.S., Capt. C. L. Hussey, U.S.N., Col. Kenyon Joyce, Lt. S. Kato, I.J.N., H.E. the Hon. Frank B. Kellogg, Admiral Mark Kerr, C.B., M.V.O., Air-Commodore C. A. H. Longcroft, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., the Hon. Sir E. Lucas, Sq.-Ldr. A. S. C. S. Maclaren, O.B.E., M.C., F.D.C., A.F.C., Lt.-Col. F. K. McClean, A.F.C., Lt.-Col. W. Lockwood Marsh, O.B.E., M.A., LL.B., Col. E. Mossberg, C.B.E., Maxwell P. Muller, Esq., Air-Commodore D. Munro, C.B., C.I.E., M.B., M.A., etc., T. P. O'Connor, Esq., M.P., Col. G. P. Ostoic, K.C.V.O., C.B., Capt. G. Panas, C.M.G., Lt.-Col. J. P. Pelletier, Lt.-Comdr. H. E. Perrin, Lt-Comdr. H. E. Pierson, Capt. de C. A. de A. Pimentel, Sir Alex. Richardson, Capt. de Corvette Sable, Air-Vice-Marshal Sir W. Geoffrey H. Salmond, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., Samuel Samuel, Esq., D.L., M.P., Air-Vice-Marshal F. R. Scarlett, C.B., D.S.O., Comdr. Don Edgardo von Schroeders, C. J. Fairfax Scott, Esq., Lord Herbert Scott, Ben Smith, Esq., Sir Henry White Smith, C.B.E., Rear-Admiral M. Sueter, R.N., C.B., Sir G. Owens Thurston, K.B.E., Comdr. John H. Towers, U.S.N., H. T. Vane, Esq., O.B.E., and F. C. Wade, Esq., K.C.

After the Chairman, in a speech in which he thanked the Greek Government, the United States of America, and the Imperial Japanese Government for the services rendered to Maclaren and his crew, had proposed the health of the three airmen, Mr. J. R. Clynes supported the toast in a happy speech, wherein comparison was made between the non-success of the "Vulture" and that of the Government of which he was a member. Squadron-Leader Maclaren, who was magnificently received, spoke in congratulation of the American fliers who had just completed their flight round the world, and of their unfailing sportsmanship. He mentioned particularly the cordiality that marked his progress wherever he went—the Italian welcome at Rome, the help given by the Greeks at Athens, the welcome extended by the Persian and Siamese Governments, and by the French in Indo-China, and the crowning hospitality of the Japanese. The failure of the "Vulture" was due not to mechanical defects—he was convinced that flight round the world could be achieved by one British machine and one British engine—but to bad luck. It was fog that finished the attempt. Of his bad luck he would say nothing: it was all in the game. But he would never say anything disrespectful of a London fog again.

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ARMENIAN REFUGEES.

On September 26 Mr. Baldwin presented to the Prime Minister a memorial, signed by himself and Mr. Asquith, urging that the British Government should, in response to the League of Nations appeal, make a grant in aid for the resettlement of the Armenian refugees.

It is proposed to settle these refugees either in Russian Armenia or in Greece or other suitable territory. Such a grant would be administered by the Armenian (Lord Mayor's) Fund, which has been nominated by the British Government to collect moneys for the purpose within the Empire.

The reasons given in the memorial why a substantial contribution should be made to the scheme are:—

(1) Because the Armenians were encouraged by promises of freedom to support the Allied cause during the War, and suffered for this cause so tragically.

(2) Because during the War and since the Armistice statesmen of the Allied and Associated Powers have given repeated pledges to secure the liberation and independence of the Armenian nation.

(3) Because in part Great Britain is responsible for the final dispersion of the Ottoman Armenians after the sack of Smyrna in 1922.

(4) Because the sum of £5,000,000 (Turkish gold) deposited by the Turkish Government in Berlin, 1916, and taken over by the Allies after the Armistice, was in large part (perhaps wholly) Armenian money.

(5) Because the present conditions of the refugees are unstable and demoralising, and constitute a reproach to the Western Powers.

The plans and estimates of the scheme of settlement in Russian Armenia, according to the memorial, are already prepared, and call for an expenditure of about £1,000,000. The scheme once again is under discussion at the League of Nations Assembly.

In conclusion, the memorial states:—

We desire to express our view that, as some compensation for unfulfilled pledges is morally due to the Armenians, the British Government should forthwith make an important grant.

Lastly, be it noted that this scheme (1) has no political implications, (2) is intended to be a final liquidation of Allied responsibility for the Armenians.

Dr. Weizmann, head of the Zionist organisation, is now in Palestine on a visit the purpose of which is to inspect recent developments, and particularly the possibility of transferring the central Zionist organisation from London to Palestine.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

THE SPANISH MOROCCAN WAR.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—As long ago as 1857 one can trace the causes which have led up to the present-day entanglements of Spain in the Riff. At that date the rights of individuals and nations were of less consequence than now, and the invasion of a small country by hordes of a European Power was of no concern to the public conscience of civilised Europe. But to-day the rights of small nations are supposed to be guarded by the advance of international morality, so that when one realises what is still being done in the Riff one cannot help becoming more cynical than ever about the justice of Christian nations and the advancement of European morality.

Since 1909 Spain has been attacking the Riffis with forces varying from 50,000 to 120,000, and in 1910 A. Bartlett, as he was leaving Morocco, wrote: "Already the guns of an army of 40,000 are sounding the death knell of a nation."

But to-day, in 1924, the Riffis are more than holding their own, and daily reports point to the stubborn spirit still being shown by them in defence of their independence.

At 1,500 miles distant from London how many English people realise what monstrous injustice is being done, what sufferings are being borne by the Riffis and Spanish on account of the prestige of a few thousand officers?

Perhaps the sufferings of the Spanish soldiers have been given prominence enough for the British public to understand there is a ruinous war being fought, but for the Riffis, who has spoken or written on their behalf?

Blockaded by sea and land, their women and children have for years suffered from a paucity of food, and certain articles which had become of daily necessity can only be procured at enormous expense, such as tea and sugar. Recently, by the use of aeroplanes and bombs, their crops have been set on fire, and numerous women and children killed in their villages. Only a few weeks ago I received a letter stating that in one village fifteen women and eleven children had been killed.

Yet their patriotism is still unquenched, and the ardour of their resistance even more exalted than in 1909. Here is heroism, indeed! Here is an example which should stir every British heart to sympathy and admiration! Here is a heroic subject which should on contemplation exalt every heart and cleanse every soul by the purity of its desire, the sacrifice of everything for the attainment of its ideal.

But few are their friends, and the League of Nations will not countenance the presence of their representatives. They look to the British public for help. Time after time have various Riffis said to me, "If only the British public knew the facts, surely they would render us assistance."

They have been called "rebels" and "barbarians," but with what foul injustice!

They are but rebels to rapacity and violation, and barbarians by 2,000 years of aggression from Carthaginians, Romans, Vandals, Arabs, and modern European nations.

They have felt for generations the spirit of the crusades and the inquisition directed against them. Is there any wonder, then, they are wild, hostile, suspicious, and poor? As a French writer, after sketching the wars between Spain and the Moors since 1248, the attacks on the North African coast line since the XVI. Century by European Powers, says: "Résultat le plus durable, la Haine pour l'Infidel entretenue et inalterée par ces siécles de contact violent."

But Abdul Krim, granted the independence of his country, will erase these centuries from the memory of his countrymen, and, in conjunction with European science and money, wishes to develop his territory.

What of the Spanish?

Alone the army officers wish to continue this war of persecution. It is a question of their prestige! Twenty thousand officers; and the rest of Spain would be only too happy to put an end to this everlasting drain on their resources.—I am, etc.,

R. Gordon Canning.

19, Cadogan Square, S.W.1, September 27.

EGYPT IN LONDON.

SEPTEMBER 23, 1924.

For a brief space of time on the day of Zaghloul Pasha's arrival Egypt took charge, if not of London, at least of Claridge's Hotel, where its hero was staying. The number of Egyptian students or young people, female and male, domiciled in England was surprising. They must all have been there, a jostling, enthusiastic crowd, bearing their tributes of flowers or waving the flags of independent Egypt. There was no mistaking the genuineness of the idol-worship or the self-confidence of the demonstrators. In that it was a homely and a pleasing picture. Seated on a low chair in his sitting-room, Mme. Zaghloul beside him, both knee-deep in flowers, Saad Pasha Zaghloul accepted with a kindly, fatherly smile the exuberant homage of his youthful fellow-countrymen as they surged around him. With difficulty a space was cleared to enable the ubiquitous photographer to work his flashlight will, and one retired only to be succeeded by another, even more particular to secure his coign of vantage.

At last the pent-up enthusiasm reached the vocal point. A woman student led the cheering, and the room rang with the cries that have long been familiar in Cairo streets and elsewhere: "Long live Saad Pasha!" "Long live King Fuad, King of Egypt and the Sudan!" and many others, less suitable, perhaps, on British soil than in the exhilarating atmosphere of Egypt. But who would dream of saying them nay? The veteran Prime Minister, obviously wearied from a tiring journey and a distressful crossing, rose to withdraw. It was a signal for a further ovation. Then one of the gathering stood forward and within a few inches of Zaghloul Pasha's face proceeded to deliver himself in impassioned language of the whole science of negotiation and the duties of Egypt's Prime Minister. The set kindly smile never relaxed, and, gently shepherded by his staff, Zaghloul Pasha passed into another room. Young Egypt-in-exile, well pleased with itself, with its outing and shouting, melted cheerfully away, yielding place to senior and wiser heads, whose influence and advice will haply prove of greater weight in the final adjustment of Anglo-Egyptian relations.

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Near East Bookshelf.

THE FOUNTAIN HEAD OF HINDUISM.

"THE RELIGION OF THE RIGVEDA." By H. D. Griswold, D.D. (London: Oxford University Press, 1923. Price, 12s. 6d. net.)

The identity of many root-words in the chief languages of Europe and Eastern Asia raises a presumption that the races which speak them had a common source. It is generally admitted that the civilisation of these wide-spreading regions originated in the advent of a congeries of clans termed "Aryan"; but scholars differ as to the motherland of the great Indo-European family. The earliest conjecture placed it in Central Asia east of the Caspian Sea; claims were subsequently set up on behalf of the plains of Eastern Europe; and the former view is favoured by recent discoveries in Chinese Turkestan. It is argued with considerable force that wholesale migrations of our race must have been prompted by economic necessity. Now the world's civilisations were unquestionably born in its riverine systems; and in prehistoric ages Central Asia possessed one rivalling the deltas of Upper Egypt and Mesopotamia. Here the Aryan clans fed their flocks in lush pastures watered by the Amu Darya and the Sir Darya while the Caspian and the Aral Seas were connected with the Polar Ocean. During the third millennium B.C. the globe's surface north of the Pamirs was thrust upwards, probably by volcanic action. Rivers and inland seas shrunk in volume; dessication rendered the Aryans' territory uninhabitable; and a long series of migrations began which have changed the whole course of history. Some tribes invaded Europe, which belongs geographically to the Asiatic continent; others poured into India from the north-west. The Punjáb, watered by its five rivers, felt the first impact of Aryan invasion. The newcomers were highly organised, and the law of division of labour had long been in operation among them. Defence and aggression were in the hands of warriors termed Ksatriyas; knowledge was a monopoly of the priesthood, or Brahmans, and the inarticulate masses whose labour supported the hierarchy bore the generic term of Vaisya. They encountered fierce resistance from the negroid aborigines, but superior armament in the end prevailed. The Aryan bowmen were as skilful as their English descendants during the Hundred Years' War, and the Aryan war-chariots were prototypes of the "Tanks" which proved so efficacious during the recent struggle. External pressure and the geographical isolation of the Punjáb were responsible for the growth of an ironbound caste system based on colour. The Aryan invaders had white skins, while the conquered aborigines wore the dusky hue of their African kinsmen. It is a significant fact that caste connotes colour in Sanskrit, which was the Aryans' mother-tongue. The results of miscegenation are apparent in the Hindu hierarchy; but Panjábi Brahmans retain the physical characteristics of their remote ancestors. Pride of colour—still rampant in all countries where "white meets black"—is one proof the more that the Indo-European family descends from a common source.

Religion has always played a mighty part in determining the trend of civilisation. The Aryans brought with them the cult of Nature-Powers. In course of time each was credited with possessing human qualities: Varuna, probably identical with the Greek Ouranos, was an ethical god, the all-wise rewarder of the deeds of men; Agni, delighting in rites and sacrifice, was specially venerated by priests; Indra was the warriors' leader and protector; and Soma personified the sacrificial libation, which in all probability was some form of alcohol. As ages rolled by the Hindu pantheon became peopled by an infinity of minor deities; but the early Aryans worshipped under the open sky, temples and idols being later importations from Southern India. Religious cult rests on writings which are believed to be inspired; and the Rigveda was the forerunner of a vast mass of theology which regulates every action of Hindu life. Its title comes from the Sanskrit *Veda*, meaning knowledge, and *Rik*, a stanza; hence it may be translated as "Verse-wisdom." It consists of a vast collection of sacred hymns, the earliest dating from 1200 B.C. For several centuries they were transmitted orally by Brahmans, and were not reduced to writing until the commencement of the seventh century before Christ's Advent. The text has since been preserved with a reverent care transcending that which has been lavished on the Christian Scriptures. It ushered in the dawn of Indian faith and thought and art and song; the Oriental mind has no mysteries for students who are capable of assimilating its diction.

Dr. Griswold is well qualified to fulfil his self-imposed task of extracting the essence of Hinduism from the oldest of its sacred books. After serving for nearly thirty years as a missionary in the Punjáb, he studied Sanskrit at Oxford, and is now secretary to the Council of Presbyterian Missions in India. No European has enjoyed equal opportunities for tracing the course of Indian civilisation to its fountain-head. F. H. S.

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Nargas: Songs of a Sikh." By Bhai Vir Singh. Translated by Puran Singh. With a Foreword by Ernest Rhys. Coloured frontispiece by Abdul Rahman Chingtai. (London: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd. 5s. net.)

"The Story of the Jewish People: Being a History of the Jewish People since Bible Times." By Jack M. Myers. With a Prefatory Note by the Very Rev. the Chief Rabbi. Vol. II., with illustrations. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"The Gateway of Palestine: A History of Jaffa." By S. Tolkowsky. With numerous illustrations. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"The Folklore of Bombay." By R. E. Enthoven, C.I.E. (London: Oxford University Press. 14s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

October 2, 1924 (New Style),
September 19, 1924 (Old Style).
Rabiai 3, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Tishri 4, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Egyptian Minister in Paris arrived in London last week.

The Yugoslav Minister is returning to London to-day from Vichy.

M. Oromolu, Governor of the National Bank of Roumania, left London last Thursday for Paris.

Lady Gauntlett has left London by the British India Company's s.s. Mandala for Bombay.

Mr. U. Grant Smith, United States Minister to Albania, left London on September 24 for Tirana.

The Maharaja of Bikanir has returned to London from Geneva. He is staying at the Carlton Hotel.

Lord Islington arrived in Paris last week from Constantinople, and is staying at the Hotel Matignon.

Dr. Dusan Tanaskovitch, Chancellor at the Yugoslav Legation, has left London for Belgrade on leave.

M. N. D. Ciotori, specially attached to the Roumanian Legation, has returned to London from Geneva.

M. and Mme. Venizelos arrived in London last week from the Continent, and are staying with Sir Arthur and Lady Crosfield.

The Roumanian Minister has left Geneva for the South of France. M. and Mme. Titulesco return to London about the middle of October.

Princess Margaret and Princess Theodora of Greece, who recently returned to London from Sweden, left for Paris last week.

Mme. Zaghloul, wife of the Egyptian Premier, on September 25 visited Mme. Aziz Izzet, the wife of the Egyptian Minister, at 41, Berkeley Square.

The Bulgarian Minister left London on September 23 for Geneva. During his absence M. Stoyan Petroff Tchomakoff is acting as Chargé d'Affaires.

M. Mootolea, Director-General of the Roumanian Ministry of the Interior, arrived in London on September 23 from Bucharest on a special mission.

Sir Dadiba Dalal, High Commissioner for India, has tendered his resignation to the Government of India. His health as been far from satisfactory of late.

Air-Marshal Sir John and the Hon. Lady Salmond do not expect to be settled in London before January. They will be staying at Panshanger, Hertford, during the autumn.

Among the passengers who left London on September 25 by the P. and O. Bombay express to join the Caledonia at Marseilles were Sir Benode Mitter, for Port Said, and Lady Kerr and Sir William Duff and Lady Reid for Bombay.

M. V. S. Anjelkovitch, Secretary at the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, with Mme. Anjelkovitch, returned to London on September 23 from Belgrade.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Arthur John Phillips, son of the late Octavius Phillips, of Fairstowe, Ealing, Middlesex, and Amy Louisa, daughter of the late Horace L. Beil, of Alexandria, Egypt.

Under the auspices of the Central Asian Society, Major D. McCallum (late British Liaison Officer in Syria) is lecturing, on October 10, on "The French in Syria, 1919-1924." The lecture, which will begin at 5 p.m., is to be delivered at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall.

Among the guests recently entertained at Blair Drummond by Sir Kay and Lady Muir for grouse shooting have been Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Walter, Colonel and Miss Garnet-Muir, Major Mark Sprot, Commander J. Moncreiffe, Major and Miss Villiers-Stuart, Madame Felix Guépin, Miss Addison, Miss Walter, and the Danish Chargé d'Affaires.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Lieutenant-General Sir Andrew Skeen, the new Chief of the General Staff of the Indian Army, is expected to assume office at Delhi on October 25.

The Air Ministry announces that Air Commodore H. C. T. Dowding has been appointed to the Royal Air Force Headquarters, Iraq, for duty as Chief Staff Officer, to date September 19.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. J. R. Ellis Cunliffe to be a Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature in Burma in the vacancy created by the transfer to the Madras High Court of Mr. Justice H. O. C. Beasley.

Mr. Humphreys, former Commercial Secretary at the British Legation at Budapest, is proceeding to Bucharest, *vice* Mr. A. A. Adams, who has been transferred to Prague. Mr. E. C. D. Rawlins, who has been Commercial Secretary at Prague since September, 1923, has been transferred to Budapest. These changes were to take effect from yesterday.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1924.

THE IRAQ FRONTIER.

Some time before the negotiations took place in Constantinople between Fethi Bey and Sir Percy Cox on the subject of the settlement of the Turco-Iraqi frontier a warning was uttered in these pages that movements or reports of movements of Turkish troops in the area under dispute were to be anticipated as the date of the conference approached. Nothing of this nature, however, happened. The Turks entered into the conference expecting, apparently, an easy victory for their point of view, and it was not thought necessary to prepare any special setting for that particular meeting. Their surprise on finding that Great Britain refused to budge from a perfectly logical position was genuine; the smoothness of the proceedings was unruffled, but considerable umbrage was subsequently taken when the full significance of the British attitude was appreciated. Turkey, it was indignantly announced, would not consent to the submission of the question to the League of Nations; her claim was unchallengeable and must be conceded. Other counsels subsequently prevailed. It was seen to be impolitic to refuse the jurisdiction of the League, but the need for reinforcing the Turkish arguments was realised. Accordingly, the movements on the Iraqi frontier that we had considered probable at the time of the Constantinople conference were duly staged for the benefit of Geneva. If it seems difficult at first to understand the Turkish line of reasoning, this becomes quite clear on reference to the columns of a certain section of the British Press. The British Government very rightly protested at Geneva against an overt breach of the Treaty of Lausanne in the invasion of Iraq territory by Turkish forces, whose advance has naturally to be met with resistance. At once a few newspapers display a feverish zeal to play the Turkish game. "Our continued occupation of the barren wastes of Mesopotamia," we read, "has brought about a situation which may lead to another costly war." Then follow the time-honoured jeremiads about intolerable burdens, inhospitable wildernesses, interminable frontier expeditions, enormous military expenditure. A small force of Turks has only to make a raid into Iraq, and immediately, as Angora foresaw, the school for scuttle rushes to its pens and would throw to the winds all the present and future results of the great sacrifices of blood and treasure made by Great Britain in bearing her share of the white man's burden and bringing to the peoples of the Middle East for the first time in their history the boon of ordered government, the prospect of peace and progress.

The British Government, it must be repeated, is within its rights in protesting against this calculated infringement by the Turks of their recent treaty obligations; and it can afford to ignore the new breed of milk-and-water Imperialists, offspring of pique and a syndicated Press. Turkey has been curiously shortsighted in the scheme adopted for supplementing her case in Geneva. To the north of the Mosul vilayet, when the Turks and the British had settled down in their spheres of effective occupation, there was a stretch of no-man's land between the two spheres—the former home of certain Assyrian Christians. Hither a number drifted back, content with the sense of security provided by the absence of Turks and the proximity of the British in Iraq. At the time of the Treaty of Lausanne, July, 1923, this represented the *status quo*, which the Turks undertook to respect. In October they announced their intention of sending officials to administer the country, but an immediate protest by the British Government caused the scheme to be dropped. Two months ago it was revived without any previous announcement, but the official sent to take charge was put over the border by the Assyrians. Thereupon the Turks mobilised a force, and, with a view to taking the Assyrians in the rear, deliberately crossed a recognised section of the frontier, many miles to the west. If they had counted on Iraqi supineness in dealing with this treaty breach, they were quickly undeceived, as the invading force was immediately driven back with losses. The outrage is hardly likely to impress the League favourably, but it affords an excellent object-lesson of what would be in store for these Assyrians or others if left at the mercy of Turkish action. The Turks, however, need not be credited with any warlike intentions; undoubtedly they want the Mosul vilayet, both in the hope that it will provide them with oil and more revenue, and also because they know that a partition of Kurdistan will inevitably give rise to unflattering comparisons between the lot of Kurds left under Turkish jurisdiction and that of Kurdish subjects in Iraq. But Turkey is as averse from war over the Iraq frontier as Great Britain is. If, however, a single raid can start a section of the British Press whining pathetically for the evacuation of Iraq, and possibly bring about what Turkey of her own accord could never hope to achieve, Angora reasons that it is well worth the trouble. The wisest course, therefore, for the British Government to pursue is to prepare for all emergencies, but to allow nothing that Turkey does to deter it from a straightforward, unequivocal policy, which will be found capable of enduring when the present Turkish mood has passed.

The Turkish raids over the Iraq frontier are serious only in their political aspect; they prove the Turks to be still unable to appreciate the fact that modern civilisation calls for reciprocity and good faith among the nations. Anglo-Turkish relations will be determined by forces more fundamental and lasting than any particular frame of mind of her present rulers. For the moment the Turkish Government is not possessed of an accommodating spirit. It resembles its own Governor of Constantinople, who recently ordered a midnight mobilisation. It has drunk deep of the heady wine of victory; it can distinguish nothing but enemies on every side, who seem doubly dangerous in the intellectual twilight in which the country is involved; it has, therefore, to mobilise all its protective forces and stand, like a porcupine on guard, with quills erect. With a little patience on Great Britain's part—not of the flabby, scuttling order, but based on self-confidence and a world-wide millennium-long experience of human nature—the Turk will recover from his obsession, and will then be quick enough to realise who really filled the rôle of a friend when he was not responsible for his actions.

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MOROCCAN HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS.

By "RODAGOM."

1.—The Spanish Zone.

The normal way of approaching Tangier is by sea, but to those who are prepared to brave its attendant discomforts the road from Ceuta through Tetuan and the Fondak of Ain Yedida—once Raisuli's eyrie—forms a more picturesque and interesting route. A few kilometres from Ceuta, which is not considered as being in Morocco, the frontier is crossed and the Spanish zone entered. Tetuan can be reached by rail from Ceuta, rather more than an hour's journey by a primitive train, but the trip by motor is preferable. The road follows the sea until some ten miles from Tetuan, when it turns inland and winds up the valley to the white city perched in its alluring gorge. The bleak and precipitous hills rising on each side of the gorge give a good idea of the natural difficulties by which warfare in these parts is attended, and go far to explain the lack of success met with by the Spaniards up to date.

Tetuan itself is one of the most characteristic of Moroccan towns, and the crude ugliness of the unfinished *Ensanche*, the Spanish quarter, is soon forgotten once the winding covered streets of the old town are entered. The huge brass and iron-studded doors open on rare gems of Oriental architecture: water is abundant, and even the less assuming houses have their fountain, while the courtyards of the palaces are built round mosaic-encrusted tanks, which reach, in some cases, almost the dimensions of a swimming bath. The city is surrounded on the north-west and north-east sides by extensive fruit gardens dotted with pretty country houses. Unfortunately, immense damage was done both to trees and buildings by the guerilla fighting which took place round Tetuan in recent years, and by the wanton action of the Spanish soldiery, who cut down hundreds of trees and demolished many a house in their quest for timber. Leatherwork is the chief industry of Tetuan, and the local craftsmen hold their own with those in other parts of Morocco, over the whole of which the industry flourishes.

The journey of sixty odd kilometres to Tangier (in winter a longer *détour* is necessary) is performed by motor-car; the mail service is carried out by large charabancs seating from twenty to twenty-eight passengers, while ordinary touring cars are also available. Fares are expensive, compared with the French zone, but this is inevitable on account of the villainous state of the road. Before going on to Tangier it is worth while to make the trip to Sheshauen, the mystery city, which resisted all the efforts of the Spaniards up to a few years ago. The journey to Tangier occupies nearly four hours under the most favourable conditions, and in winter the car sometimes fails to get through in the day.

Travelling by night is not allowed, owing to the unsettled state of the country, and all along the route can be seen small pickets of solitary sentries, wretchedly equipped, show in *alpargatas*, and wearing a dejected and disillusioned air. The view from the Fondak, which is reached after a stiff climb from Tetuan, is magnificent, but the hairpin corners met with on the ascent and descent, together with the appalling narrowness and disrepair of the track, sometimes lead the repentant traveller to meditate rather on his past misdeeds than on the beauty of the scene unfolded. Accidents are surprisingly rare, however, the drivers, in spite of apparent recklessness, possessing considerable skill. A largish military camp is passed at R'gaia, and thence an hour's run leads to Tangier.

The International Zone.

On crossing the International bridge (if one has come by the "winter route") a notable change for the better is experienced. From a second-rate trail the car debouches on a first-class highway which would shame many in France or England, and farms, villas, and so forth begin to dot the landscape, showing that here, at any rate, the ever-present fear of the marauder does not exist.

Tangier is so well known to the tourist that description is superfluous. A choice of routes is again available. Casablanca may be reached either by sea or by motor through a portion of the Spanish zone, and thence via Kenitra and Rabat. The latter, until the Spanish zone is again left behind, is a hair-raising enterprise, but it has the advantage of enabling the traveller to make acquaintance with towns which he would otherwise not visit.

A very early start is made, as the Spanish zone must be cleared before sunset, and even so, in winter this often proves no easy task. The road back to the International bridge is taken, when a stop is made to examine passports. Once this is left behind, it is not necessary to inquire whether Spanish soil has again been reached: the jolting and swaying of the car are incontrovertible evidence. Larache, with its hideous modern quarter and general air of forlornness, and El Ksar-el-Kebir are the next stops: the latter is rather more picturesque, being almost wholly Moorish in character. Two miles from the town the French zone frontier is reached, where passports are again examined. An immediate change for the better in the road is at once evident, although the high standard maintained in other parts of the zone is not really attained until Kenitra is in sight. A fine bridge has now been built over the river Sebou, which obviates the loss of time and discomfort entailed in crossing by the ferry.

The French Zone.

Kenitra is the coming town of Morocco, and undoubtedly has a commercial future: it offers, however, nothing of interest to the tourist. An excellent road leads to Rabat, which is usually reached about 6 p.m. Most people prefer to break the journey here, though cars are in waiting to take any who wish to go on to Casablanca that night.

Rabat, the capital of the Protectorate, is a town of considerable charm, and one of the few in which the modern quarter does not jar on the eye. The Moorish town, though not to be compared with Fez, Meknes, or Marrakesh, is worthy of attention, as is Saleh, across the estuary.

Casablanca is a mere two hours away, and the journey may be made by charabanc, touring-car, or limousine; the latter is most comfortable and the charges very reasonable. For instance, the 420 kilometres from Casablanca to Mogador may be covered for 100 francs per head. Some fifteen years ago, Casablanca, or Dar-el-Baida, as it was then better known, was a comparatively unimportant native townlet. To-day its boulevards and public buildings are on a Parisian scale, and it is often hard to realise that one is in Africa. Great progress has been made with the port. The fall of the franc and other causes have brought about a temporary slump, it is true, and parts of the town wear an unfinished look, but there is no reason to doubt the advent of better times in the near future. Casablanca of to-day, the chief port in Morocco, the centre of a network of first-class motor-roads leading to every part of the zone, equipped with broad streets, an efficient motor-bus service, an excellent municipality, and luxurious hotels, is a lasting tribute to what French colonising genius has been able to accomplish in a short fifteen years.

A rather uninteresting road leads through old-

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world Azzemour, where another magnificent bridge is being built, to Mazagan, an important centre of the grain and egg trades. The port boasts, like Rabat, Saffi, Mogador, and Agadir, an open roadstead, but the tonnage handled is considerable. Neither Mazagan nor Saffi, over a hundred kilometres away, offers much of interest, though the landscape improves on leaving the former town. Halfway between Saffi and Mogador, however, on crossing the Wad Tensift, a welcome change takes place, and the somewhat bare and flat grain country gives place to well-wooded hills and gorges. Arghan-trees, from which a valuable oil is obtained, and the wood of which forms the staple of the native carpentry, are especially numerous. Late in the afternoon the quaint little town of Mogador comes in sight, with its Portuguese fort and unique architecture, lost, apparently, in a desert of sand and a waste of water. A well-built causeway, however, gives means of access, and the most Jewish town in the world, except Salonika, is soon reached.

The Mogador Jew is very English: long years of direct trade with Manchester have left an indelible stamp on the older generation. Sad to relate, the *jeunesse dorée* have forgotten what English they learned from their sires and prefer to air their doubtful French. Also the trade with Manchester is dead. Mogador is moribund, and only awaits the "opening" of Agadir to receive its *coup-de-grâce*. For the tourist, however, a day here is well spent. The mysterious Agadir is now only 170 kilometres distant; but a really bad *piste* and the inexplicable refusal of the French authorities to allow foreigners to enter the town combine to form an impassable barrier. Those who have won through have met with prompt arrest and expulsion, while it is a fact that, at any rate up till recently, even the British Vice-Consul at Mogador, in whose district the town lay, was not allowed to enter its walls. The attitude of the French is hard to understand, and the reasons advanced for it many and ingenious. It is believed that the land question—and British interests are considerable in this direction—is in a hopeless tangle, plots having been sold several times over, and non-existent land or land actually covered by the sea having been foisted on to unsuspecting buyers, and this may be a reason for the delay in declaring the town "open." This commercial and international quarantining of a town is certainly an anomaly in these days.

Marrakesh now demands a visit, and is reached in about five hours from Mogador. In extent Marrakesh is the largest city in Morocco, but it is not so densely populated as Casablanca, for instance, enormous spaces being covered by the spacious gardens, for which it is renowned, chief among which is the peerless Aguedal. Save for the newly built suburb of Gueliz, the town is purely Moorish, and the races of the Near East, of the Occident, and of the African deserts mingle on the square of Vemaa-el-Fna. Scenes of interest for the traveller, the artist, and the student of Oriental life abound, and Marrakesh, take it all in all, is the most fascinating of all Moroccan towns, not even excepting Fez. Justice cannot be done to it in a hurried stay.

Fez and Meknes have still to be visited, and the road is via Casablanca and Rabat. Fez owes much to the natural beauty of its situation, and for many will always be their first choice in Morocco. More Oriental in some ways than Marrakesh, with its tortuous covered streets, only rivalled by those of Tetuan, it exercises an irresistible appeal. As at Tetuan, the water supply is abundant, and the use made of it adds to the charms of this gem of Morocco. Meknes cannot fail to attract, though it must be, to a certain extent, form an anti-climax after Marrakesh and Fez.

From Casablanca four alternative routes lead back to Europe: steamer may be taken to Bordeaux, Gibraltar, or Marseilles, the comfortable aeroplanes of the Compagnie Latécoère to Toulouse, or motor-car back over the awful trails to Tangier, Tetuan, and Ceuta, and thence by steamer to Algeciras; or the combined motor service of the Compagnie des Transports Marocains and the Compagnie Transatlantique may be chosen, and the long run made up through Ouezzan and over the Algerian frontier to Algiers, where ship can be taken for Marseilles or other ports.

From a travelling point of view, this excursion into Moroccan highways and byways can be accomplished without undue fatigue in three weeks; but, if justice is to be done to places like Tetuan, Tangier, Casablanca, Marrakesh, and Fez, this period can be extended indefinitely.

REFUGEES IN GREECE.

The latest messages from Greece continue to emphasise the serious need among the refugees, of whom 500,000 are still destitute, and whose numbers are being swelled by continuous new arrivals under the exchange of populations arrangement. The situation is likely to assume a very serious aspect this winter, as the funds which can be put at the disposal of the local authorities are totally inadequate. The All-British appeal earnestly begs for means to give assistance. Donations of money should be sent to Sir Maurice Bonham Carter, Hon. Treasurer, 26, Gordon Street, Gordon Square, W.C.1. Gifts of clothing, blankets, etc., should be addressed to the All-British Appeal, New Hibernia Wharf, London Bridge, S.E.1.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Egyptian Season.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a report of the recent conference in London of the organisations concerned in the Egyptian tourist traffic. This is the third year of the conference, and there is no doubt now that it will be an annual affair. It enables the delegates of the various organisations to co-ordinate plans to avoid clashing in dates, etc., and so makes for the increased comfort of visitors to Egypt who might otherwise find themselves arriving at a time when railway and hotel accommodation is inadequate. The past season was very good, and the prospects for the coming one, it is satisfactory to know, are uniformly favourable. Egypt, in fact, is fast regaining her pre-War position in regard to tourist traffic.

Yugoslavia's Financial Position.

In the past two weeks I have touched on the evidence of the growing stabilisation of the Balkan exchanges. This development has been particularly noticeable in the case of Yugoslavia, whose exchange has fluctuated very little over a considerable period. This has been due to the very determined effort that has been made to place Yugoslavia's finances on a sound basis. For the first time since the War the Budget of the past year showed a surplus—a small one, it is true, but the development is none the less significant on that account. It is expected that there will be a larger surplus for the current year. Concurrently with this improvement in the national finances there has been a marked trade expansion. For the first six months of the present year the value of the exports amounted to 4,175,900,000 dinars, as compared with 3,333,800,000 dinars for the corresponding period of 1923, and for the first quarter of this year Yugoslavia had a favourable balance of trade of over 133,000,000 dinars. Thus it will be seen that the stabilisation of the exchange rests on solid foundations.

Turkish Finances.

The recent statement made by the Turkish Minister of Finance on the Budget throws an illuminating light on the precarious character of Turkey's financial situation. The Minister stated that the receipts were estimated at £T130,000,000, and the expenditure at £T300,000,000, giving a deficit of £T170,000,000, and he finds it impossible in the circumstances to present a Budget to the National Assembly. According to the Minister, the idea of a loan has not been considered, but it is obvious that Turkey will ultimately be compelled to have recourse to foreign assistance, though, unfortunately for her, her whole policy in recent years has been framed on lines calculated to discourage other countries from doing anything to help. The financial crisis will inevitably make the Turks realise the facts of the position. Alone they cannot develop the resources of the country; they must have foreign aid, and that can only be obtained if they pursue a policy which is not actuated by hostility to foreign enterprises of every description

The Cotton Position.

The cotton position has rather tended to improve from the manufacturers' point of view in the last few weeks. Although the last American Bureau report was not too favourable, it is fully anticipated now that the crop will be in the region of 13,000,000 bales, while the view taken with regard to the Egyptian crop is also on the optimistic side. In the circumstances it seems almost certain that lower prices will shortly obtain for cotton, even if there is a considerable development in consumption. The Egyptian Government, as I pointed out last week, has again decided to intervene in the cotton market, and is prepared, apparently, to make purchases on a more extensive scale than before. With large crops this attempt to sustain prices is likely to be a difficult and, it may be added, not improbably an expensive matter, and it is difficult to see how the policy can be justified on economic grounds. It is as likely as not to reduce the consumption of Egyptian cotton for the time being instead of raising prices.

Tea Shares.

The activity in tea shares has been quite a feature of the Stock Exchange for some time, and though the rise, interrupted now and again by inevitable fluctuations, has gone a long way, there seems no reason for thinking that we have seen the end of the boom. The support given by the public to this market can readily be understood. It is not merely the prospect of the continuance of substantial dividends that attracts, but the certainty that tea is not liable to the fluctuations that from time to time affect other markets, such as rubber. Tea, moreover, is a commodity that tends to be in increasing demand, and, in view of the fact that one of the most important markets of pre-War days—Russia—is still to all intents and purposes unavailable, and the demand is nevertheless fully adequate to absorb the existing production owing to the expansion of consumption in this and other countries, it is not surprising that confidence should be felt in the future of the industry.

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BRITAIN AND YUGOSLAVIA.

The Yugoslav delegates attending the National Fidac Conference (Fédération Interalliée des Anciens Combatants) were entertained at luncheon at the Carlton Hotel on September 20 by the S.H.S. Fidac Entertainment Committee. Mr. Cyril Rhodes, honorary secretary of the Entertainment Committee, was in the chair, and among those present were Dr. George Todorovitch, Yugoslav Chargé d'Affaires; Major Gerald Sim, manager of the Yugoslav Express Agency; and the following Yugoslav delegates: Major Milan Radosavlevitch, M. Vladimir Bogdanovitch, Major Ljubomir Stefanovitch, Dr. M. S. Alkalay, Captain Vasa Simitch, Major Dragomir Ristitch, Major Jika Krstitch, M. Mirkovitch, M. Nedelkosavitch, M. M. Vukelitch, Mr. A. E. Maples, and Mr. Walter Grant.

In proposing the health of the delegates Mr. Cyril Rhodes said that he would take the opportunity of explaining the origin of the S.H.S. Fidac Entertainment Committee, whose privilege it was to entertain the delegates that day. When the British Legion found that Yugoslavia was sending such an influential delegation to the International Conference this year, Colonel Sir Arthur Crosfield approached the Yugoslavia Express Agency to know whether it would co-operate with the British Legion in helping to entertain the delegation. Not only did the company welcome this opportunity of expressing its good will towards Yugoslavia, but other leading British firms having relations with Yugoslavia readily co-operated, and the S.H.S. Fidac Entertainment Committee came into being. Dr. Gavrilovitch, Minister of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, consented to become its president. His absence that day was much regretted, but as he was on the Continent they were able to extend a cordial welcome to Dr. George Todorovitch, Yugoslav Chargé d'Affaires. The Committee received the support of the leading British steamship companies, banks, engineering and general trading companies having business relations with Yugoslavia, including the Cunard Line, the Ellerman Lines, the British Trade Corporation, and Messrs. Armstrong and Whitworth and many others. If the ideals for which the Fidac stands are to be fully realised, it is necessary that inter-Allied trade should be developed to its fullest; and this could only be done if they got to know one another personally, and thus were able to appreciate each other's point of view and know each other's requirements.

Major Gerald Sim, who also spoke, pointed out that the ideals of the F.I.D.A.C. could be furthered by the medium of mutual commercial advantage. He had been struck in his personal acquaintance with Serbia during the War, when he was a major in the Serbian Army, with the fact that there was no direct transport of goods between Britain and Serbia. Everything went either via Trieste or Salonika, or overland through Austria.

In February, 1920, therefore, he started the Yugoslavia Express Agency, Ltd., to provide direct transport from Yugoslav ports to England and America. They bought from the British Navy a small steamer to start the trade, and she was the first steamer to sail under the British flag direct from England to a Serbian port. In 1913 one British steamer went to the harbour of Gravosa. In 1923 there were seventy-seven large British steamers in Gravosa, and for the first six months of this year sixty. In fact, the resources of the harbour had been outgrown. This meant a great deal to Yugoslavia in direct and indirect revenue. The employment of hundreds of men as stevedores, the revenue to the railways, the port dues, purchases of stores and produce for the needs of the ships and their crews, these were some of the most obvious gains, and there were numbers of others. Their policy had been to encourage exports from Yugoslavia, in the sure knowledge that imports must inevitably follow in an ever-increasing scale. This policy had, therefore, the effect of tending always to improve the Yugoslav exchange.

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THE EGYPTIAN TOURIST SEASON.

Annual Conference in London.

Under the auspices of the Egyptian Promotion Association, the third annual conference of representatives of the tourist associations, steamship companies, hotel syndicates, the Egyptian State Railways, etc., was held on September 25 at the offices of the Egyptian Government, Queen Anne's Chambers. Those present included Mr. H. W. Tite (International Sleeping Car Co.), Mr. Weaver (Egyptian State Railways), Major Newcombe, Mr. A. S. Bull and Mr. A. P. Bolland (Sudan Government), Mr. Petty and Mr. Jackson (Thos. Cook and Son, Ltd.), Mr. Charles Baehler, representing the Egypt Hotels, Ltd., the Grand Hotel of Egypt, the Swiss Egyptian Hotels, and the Upper Egypt Hotels, M. Barillet (Heliopolis Palace Hotel), Mr. Percy (the National Hotel), Mr. Lewis and Mr. Clarke (Cunard Steamship Co.), Mr. E. Trevor Lewis (White Star Line and Red Star Line), M. du Sejour (Messageries Maritimes), Major Stormont (Lloyd Triestino and Sevizi Marittimi), Mr. H. G. Dring and Mr. Fredk. G. Thaw (Canadian Pacific Railway Co.), and Mr. Philip S. Taylor (secretary).

On the proposal of Mr. Baehler, Mr. H. W. Tite was unanimously elected chairman. Mr. Tite said that it was reported to him in Cairo last winter that a representative of a certain group expressed the opinion that that annual meeting in London served no useful purpose. Personally he was of the opinion that it was extremely useful.

American cruises to Egypt appeared to be gaining in popularity. The number of cruises due in Egypt during the coming season was sixteen, beginning with the White Star s.s. Adriatic (which would pay two visits), and including the largest liner that has ever visited Egypt—the s.s. Mauretania.

The other vessels which will bring passengers will be the s.s. Homeric, Arcadian, Empress of France, Empress of Scotland, Lapland (three visits), Franconia, Scythia, Laconia, Belgenland, California, Rotterdam, Samaria, and Marloch.

Judging by the figures produced at the meeting, Egypt is going to have a record season, the numbers far exceeding those of any pre-war season. The bookings so far exceed the number of visitors to Egypt during the whole of last season.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Baehler, managing director of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., invited all present to lunch at the Savoy Hotel the following day. The majority of the delegates availed themselves of Mr. Baehler's invitation. About thirty persons sat down to an excellent lunch, at the conclusion of which Major Newcombe, on behalf of the guests, thanked Mr. Baehler for his hospitality.

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British Consular Reports.

VII.—EGYPT *(continued)*.

Machinery of Government Finance.

As considerable interest is now being taken in the machinery of Government finance in this country as the result of the opening of the first Egyptian Parliament on March 15, 1924, an explanation of the functions and composition of the General Reserve Fund; of the actual state and service of the Egyptian Public Debt; and of the mechanism of currency and exchange in Egypt, should not only prove of general interest, but also give a clearer indication than has been possible in previous annual reports of the economic and financial situation of the country.

General Reserve Fund.

The application in Egypt of the capitulatory régime to Europeans makes it impossible for taxation to be levied on the subjects of the Powers concerned without their unanimous consent, with the result that Egypt's choice of, and power to create, fresh sources of revenue are restricted. Her chief existing sources of revenue are the customs—*i.e.*, import duties on merchandise and tobacco dues; the railways; and the cotton crop, whose value affects almost every source of revenue either directly or indirectly, and it is to make good abnormal budgetary deficits which cannot be met by administrative economies or fresh taxation, that the general reserve fund has been created. The conspicuous example during the last ten years of its usefulness for this purpose was afforded by the way in which an exceptional deficit in the 1920-21 budget arising out of the purchase on a huge scale, and at high prices, of coal, wheat and wheat flour, was met. In this instance so large an inroad was made into the reserve fund that it shrank from over £E17 millions on March 31, 1920, to only a million and a-half a year later.

Although only three financial years have elapsed since that crisis, there is every prospect of the Reserve Fund being restored as from April 1, 1924, to a figure not far short of a million in excess of that at which it stood on March 31, 1920.

It must, however, be borne in mind that extensive and urgent use of the proper function of the reserve fund is only made possible by the investment of the bulk of it in securities that are easily realisable at any moment, and whose conversion into cash does not disturb the national credit. Thus, although a considerable proportion of such investments are in the form of Egyptian Government securities, it is British and Indian securities which, having from 1915 to 1920 been considerably in excess of the former, have so successfully borne the brunt of urgent and extensive requirements of ready money, that their sale has obviated almost entirely the need to realise any Egyptian securities, and thus precluded the possibility of a depression of the national credit which would have resulted from the realisation on a large scale by the Egyptian Government of its own securities.

The latter have thus been able to occupy, undisturbed, their particular sphere of usefulness—viz., firstly, that of providing cover for the debit balance at the National Bank of Egypt temporarily created every year, in which the Reserve Fund is at all fully invested, by the irregularity of revenue production from taxation under certain heads; and secondly, that of contributing to revenue in the form of interest on funds.

The Government Debt.

The Egyptian Government securities in which a portion of the reserve fund is invested take the form of bonds of the Unified Debt 4 per cent., the Privileged Debt 3½ per cent., and the Guaranteed Debt 3 per cent., which together constitute the Consolidated Debt. Its position on December 31, 1923, was as follows:—

Balance outstanding, £92,468,640 (Guaranteed Debt, £5,368,900; Privileged Debt, £31,127,780; Unified Debt, £55,971,960); Bonds in circulation, £83,856,620 (G. Debt, £5,006,300; P. Debt, £28,698,960; U. Debt, £50,151,360), the difference representing the value of the Bonds held by the Government and Debt Commission.

The Guaranteed Debt has been reduced by statutory annual amortisation from £9,424,000 in 1885.

As regards the bonds in circulation, it is a matter of considerable labour and difficulty to ascertain the proportion of the Debt respectively held in Egypt and elsewhere, owing to the fact that the quantity of coupons presented for payment in London, Paris, Cairo, and Alexandria forms no guide to the whereabouts of the holders, but, according to an authoritative statement, it was estimated that quite a substantial proportion of the public debt of Egypt was held in Egypt towards the end of 1923, and that the public fortune of the country stood at about £E95 millions.

Certain it is that there is an increasing and welcome tendency on the part of wealthy Egyptians to invest in Privileged and Unified Debt instead of hoarding their surplus funds anywhere but in banks. It is of interest in this connection to note that the market value of both these Government securities rose steadily during 1923. On December 31, 1922, Unified was quoted at £69 1s. 3d. and Privileged at £60 8s. 9d., whereas on the same date in 1923 they had risen to £74 3s. 9d. and £64 10s. respectively.

Service of the Debt.—The expenditure budgeted for yearly by the Egyptian Government for the service of the Consolidated Debt, including payment of interest thereon and statutory amortisation of the Guaranteed Debt totals £E3,552,266 per annum, to which must be added nearly £E44,500 for the expenses of the Debt Commission. The first-mentioned total is made up as follows:—

£E307,125 for the Guaranteed Debt.
£E1,062,235 for the Privileged Debt.
£E2,182,906 for the Unified Debt.

In order to meet this yearly expenditure the revenues of the Land Tax from all but one of the fourteen provinces of Egypt, together with the temporary surtax of 5 per cent. to 10 per cent. thereon levied since 1910 for educational purposes, are paid direct to the Debt Commissioners.

By the Decree of November 28, 1904, it was enacted that, without the consent of the Powers, no modifications in the Land Tax liable to reduce it below a total of £E4 millions can be made. The revenue from the provinces concerned, however, is more in the neighbourhood of 5 millions than 4 millions £E.

By this decree the Caisse de la Dette was granted a permanent reserve fund fixed at £E1,800,000, and a further sum of £E500,000, as a Fonds de Roulement or fund for working expenses which is always kept in cash. The latter sum has been virtually increased as the result of three subsequent agreements with the Ministry of

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Finance, by £E1,110,000, but this addition is described as a "carry over," to distinguish it from the original Fonds de Roulement, fixed at £E500,000.

The reserve fund of the Caisse de la Dette, which is quite separate from, and independent of the general reserve fund of the Egyptian Government, is kept intact, thanks to the mechanism provided by the Fonds de Roulement, and "carry over," which is explained below. This reserve fund is entirely invested in the Government Debt securities, and of the totals given in column 2 of the table showing its position on December 31, 1923, the bonds held by the Debt Commission consisted of £Stg.1,561,220 of Unified, and £Stg.284,940 of Privileged (the latter including £Stg.49.800 held against the liquidation of the floating debt). Their holdings in the two debts, amounting in all to £Stg.1,846,160, represent the original total of £E1,800,000.

As the service of the Debt has to be met at regular intervals, the earliest of which coincides with a period when the revenue from the Land Tax, at best most irregular in time incidence, has not yet begun to come in, the Fonds de Roulement and the "carry over" are drawn upon, subject to their complete reconstitution by the end of the financial year out of the Land Tax revenues as they become available.

This reconstitution takes place by the end of November, and from then to March 31 the Debt Commission is at liberty to place sums from the "carry over" on loan, subject to repayment, without notice. When such loans are made to the Egyptian Government they are guaranteed by Government Debt securities. The interest accruing from these loans, which is generally at a very low rate, as well as that derived from the investments constituting the Reserve Fund, contribute towards the balance that has to be paid to the Egyptian Government at the end of each financial year, after the expenses of the Debt Commission, the service of the Debt, and the reconstitution of both the Fonds de Roulement and the "carry over" have been met out of the Land Tax revenues.

As a result of the use made of the Fonds de Roulement and the "carry over" the Reserve of the Caisse de la Dette is kept intact; it can only be drawn upon for the service of the Debt in the event of the total revenue of the Land Tax available therefor proving insufficient in any given year. In the unlikely event of this contingency the order in which sums drawn from the reserve are to be utilised is as follows:—Firstly, service of the Guaranteed Debt, which enjoys absolute priority under all circumstances secondly, payment of the interest on the Privileged Debt; and thirdly, interest on the Unified Debt.

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Favourable Trade Balance.

An increase of some £E1,900,000 in imports and of £E9,671,000 in exports in 1923 over 1922 has, in spite of a decline of over a million in re-exports, not only produced a favourable trade balance of £E14,500,000, but also raised the total foreign trade of Egypt above the £E100 millions mark for the third time since the War. The greater increase in exports is due, as might be expected, to the successful marketing of Egypt's cotton, the export of which in the year 1923 realised nearly 50 millions £E, as compared with close on 40 millions £E in 1922.

The increase in imports is chiefly accounted for by cotton piece goods, wheat flour, tea, sugar, and coal, in that order, in spite of decreases, in six out of fourteen categories, and in tobacco as well.

The countries which have chiefly contributed to the total increase are Italy (who, by increasing her imports by more than £E1,100,000 and her percentage of the total imports from 7.3 to 9.42, has superseded France and attained second place after the United Kingdom), Australia and New Zealand. British India, other British possessions in the Far East, Palestine and Russia. Thus, although the increase in the United Kingdom's imports is so small that her percentage of the total imports has fallen from 34 to 32.6, the Dominions and Colonies, by increasing their combined percentage from 7.06 to 8.95, have raised that of the British Empire (excluding Palestine and Mesopotamia, which have both increased their imports) from 41.06 to 41.55.

Other countries whose imports have increased are Belgium, China, Czecho-Slovakia, Holland, Japan, Switzerland, Syria, and the United States of America, while decreases are to be seen in the case of Austria, Chile, France (whose drop of over £E200,000 helped Italy to usurp the place she held in 1922), Germany, Roumania, Sweden, and Turkey.

The increase of nearly half a million £E in imports from Australia and New Zealand, which rose in 1923 to the fifth place, and exceed those from the United States of America, is almost entirely due to wheat flour. This commodity also contributes, together with tea, jute textiles, cotton yarn, and cotton piece goods dyed in the yarn, to British India's increase of £E400,000. Tea also accounts for a good deal of the increase of £E130,000 from other British possessions in the Far East.

In spite of noteworthy increases of £E320,000 in coal, £E76,000 in stationary internal combustion engines, £E41,000 in tinplate of all kinds, £E37,000 in iron or steel axles, wheels, and springs, £E30,700 in sewing cotton, and £E29,500 in woollen hosiery, the net increase in imports from the United Kingdom in 1923 is only £E40,000. The principal decreases are cotton piece goods £70,000, carpets and floor rugs £E62,600, miscellaneous machinery £E60,000, cotton yarn and cheese £E46,000 each.

Competition.

The smallness of the net increase in United Kingdom imports is due to varying decreases in a large number of articles rather than to decreases in a few, and also to increasing competition.

The most conspicuous example of foreign competition afforded in 1923 is the increase in cotton piece goods from Italy, which accounts for more than half of her total increase of £E1,100,000 in 1923. The principal factors in the increase of the value of cotton piece goods from Italy by nearly 66 per cent. consist of goods dyed in the yarn—of

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which her share in 1923 is considerably in excess of that of the United Kingdom—of printed goods and goods dyed in the piece. As regards the quantities imported from Italy, the increases are even more formidable: thus the number of square metres of goods dyed in the yarn is nearly double that imported in 1922, and, naturally, considerably in excess of the quantity imported from the United Kingdom, while the proportionate increases in greys, bleached and printed goods and in goods dyed in the piece, are also considerable; the total increase for all categories amounts to nearly 72 per cent.

The decrease in total value of cotton piece goods from the United Kingdom of £E70,000 is accounted for by the combined drop in bleached and printed being greater than the joint increase in greys, dyed in the piece and dyed in the yarn, and it should be noted that, although the value of the United Kingdom's imports of dyed in the yarn in 1922 exceeded that of Italian imports by over £E124,000, the increase in the latter has been so much greater than the rise in the former, that Italy in 1923 is £E187,000 ahead of the United Kingdom. The same feature characterises the increases in quantity from the two countries in this particular category, and increases in the number of square metres of greys, dyed in the yarn and in the piece imported from the United Kingdom have not sufficed to prevent the decreases in bleached and printed, from producing a net decrease in the United Kingdom total for all categories of 700,000 square metres.

The increase in the total number of motor-cars and motor-lorries from 1,248 to 1,543 in 1923 is due chiefly to a considerable rise in the number imported from the United States of America, which holds pride of place in both quantity and value, the latter having risen by nearly 50 per cent. French imports were more than doubled, British imports increased by about 60 per cent.—viz., 57 to 93, accompanied, however, by a considerable decline in value; but appreciable decreases both in number and value of German, Italian, Belgian, and Austrian imports, though failing to affect the increase in the total number, brought about a decrease in the total value. The increase in French cars in 1923 consisted, for the most part, of light and "baby" models. British light cars at very reasonable prices, as also those of American and French manufacture, are now successfully challenging the popularity of the Italian model, and it is to be hoped that the British light models, which have recently made their first appearance in the Egyptian market, including "runabouts," which compare very favourably with their cheap-looking German rival, will continue to be sold in Egypt at prices that will command a ready market. The import of taxicabs was marked by the introduction of a number of very smart coupés of Italian manufacture, which have proved very popular.

Exports.

The net increase of £E9,670,909 in the value of exports in 1923 is due primarily to cotton, which actually accounts for £E9,801,524, but other noteworthy increases are £E725,000 in sugar, £E595,000, in cotton-seed, and £E253,000 in cotton-seed oil, which more than offset the principal decreases, viz., £E800,000 in onions, £E265,000 in cigarettes, £E192,000 in benzine, £E122,000 in rice, and £E36,000 in eggs. The increase in sugar exports is remarkable in view of the fact that the removal on May 10, 1923, of control automatically terminated prohibition of the free import of this commodity, since, in spite of this, the quantity of refined cane sugar exported rose from 13,126 tons, worth £E332,450, in 1922, to 37,550 tons, worth £E1,057,760 in 1923, the largest share of it going to Great Britain, with lesser quantities to Mesopotamia, Palestine, French Mediterranean Possessions, and British India.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Manaar for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 4).

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool, October 6).

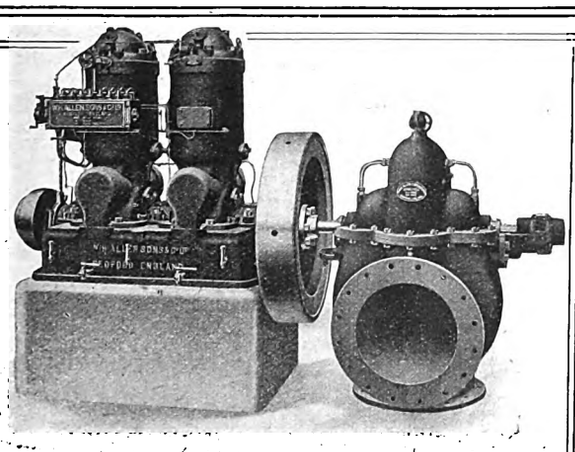
British India Line.—S.s. Manela for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 10); s.s. Nevasa for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 11).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan MacInnes for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, October 15).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Hong Kong for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 15).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Tramore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 18); s.s. Sycamore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila. Closing November 5. (The last steamer of the season to Galatz and Braila.)

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Narkunda for Bombay (London, October 3); s.s. Khyber for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 4).



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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Good Demand for Dried Fruit.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Coffee.—The firm tendency reported last week has continued. Costa Rica at 164s. is 4s. up, East Indian is unchanged at 140s.; Santos remains at 104s., while Kenya is unaltered at 136s.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair request at last week's prices. Tate's cubes are 45s. 9d., London granulated is 40s. 4½d., while Lyle's granulated is 40s. 7½d. Foreign descriptions have been firm. West Indian crystallised has been done at 35s. 6d.; White Java at 36s. 4½d., and Czech granulated at 39s., all the same as last week. Futures are quiet: October, 23s. 3d.; December, 20s. 6d.; March, 20s. 3d.

Maize.—This commodity has been in good demand, and prices show an advancing tendency. La Plata has been done at 43s. 9d. spot, at 43s. 6d for October-November, and at 44s. 1½d. for November-December.

Currants.—Business has been on a very poor scale, the tendency being to await developments.

Sultanas.—A very firm tone prevails for Smyrnas. The fruit now arriving is of good quality, and this factor has naturally had its effect on the market. The demand for the Continent has continued.

Figs.—There is a good supply of figs, and this commodity is now moving off freely. Prices are firm, and there is an advancing tendency.

Plums.—The tone has continued to be very firm. The demand shows signs of broadening, and all the indications point to the continuance of last season's good trade.

Oilcakes.—A firm tendency has prevailed. Linseed cake is unchanged at 275s., cottonseed cake is the same at 185s., while coconut cake is unaltered at 220s.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been quiet, Indian being 23s., while La Plata is 21s. 5d. Rapeseed has been firm. Toria is 23s. 6d., while real bold Ferozepore is 22s. 10½d. Cottonseed has been steady. Indian is 11s. 1½d., Egyptian black is 13s. 3d., while Sakellaridis is 13s. 4½d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed oil has been steady, closing at 43s. 6d. Rape oil has been firm, with crude at 48s. 6d., and technical refined at 51s. 6d. Cottonseed oil has been steady. Refined common edible is 49s., Bombay crude is 42s., Egyptian crude is 43s., technical is 46s., while deodorised is 51s.

The increased duties of 360 piastres and 1,140 piastres per 100 kilogs imposed in Turkey on imported wheat and flour were enforced at Constantinople as from September 1.

The Greek Ministry of Communications has signed Conventions for an air service to be carried on between Marseilles, Corfu, Athens, and Syria by a French company, and between Brindisi, Athens, and Constantinople by an Italian company.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. report as follows for the week ended September 13:—

The arrivals of sultanas on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are estimated at 15,500 tons, and the sales to date are put at 13,660 tons. Closing prices, per cwt., c.i.f., London/Liverpool, are Type 12, 45s.; 13, 48s.; 14, 51s.; 15, 53s.; 16, 58s.; 17, 65s.

The market closed firmer, with indications of a higher level of prices obtaining next week. Demand is showing increasing activity.

The fig market is very firm. The prices paid were above the previous week's level. The opinion is now becoming general that the crop will be over 20 per cent. short of last season.

In their report for the week ended September 20 Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. state:—The arrivals of sultanas since the opening of the season are estimated at 20,700 tons, and the sales are put at 17,482 tons. Closing prices: Per cwt., c.i.f. London/Liverpool: Type 12, 45s.; 13, 48s.; 14, 51s.; 15, 54s.; 16, 63s.; 17, 75s.

The sultana market up to the middle of the week advanced gradually to the highest point touched this season. Low and medium grades subsequently receded to last week's closing level, but fine fruit, owing to scarcity, is realising fancy prices. The high level of prices ruling is due to the heavy forward engagements for September shipment, and the level now reached is well over what consuming markets appear disposed to pay. Indications point to a decline next week, particularly in the low and medium grades, which should become more pronounced in October.

The fig market is firm. The Government has again stopped arrivals to the market up to October 3. The supplies on hand are barely sufficient for this interval.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Wm. H. Muller and Co. have been appointed agents at Alexandria for the Roosevelt Steamship Company, of New York.

The Commercial Bank of the Near East has declared an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less tax.

Imports into Czecho-Slovakia in July amounted in value to 1,229,526,645 crowns, while the exports were valued at 1,311,899,207 crowns. For the first seven months of this year Czecho-Slovakia had a favourable trade balance of 650,703,428 crowns.

The *Official Gazette* of the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom states: The duties levied on the exportation of certain foodstuffs from Yugoslavia have been reduced or withdrawn as from September 11. The new duties are as follow:—Wheat, 16 dinars per 100 kilogs; rye, 10 dinars per 100 kilogs; semolina and wheat, rye, maize, oat and barley flours, and meal, free.

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Engineering Topics.

The Motor Show.

It was a happy idea on the part of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, Ltd., who are responsible for organising the Motor Show, to bring forward the date this year. November has been the month of previous Shows, but in view of the fact that a large number of Colonials and Overseas visitors are here in connection with the British Empire Exhibition, it was only natural to assume that it would be an advantage to hold the Show from October 17 to 25, to give them an opportunity of inspecting the latest productions of the automobile world.

The chief feature of the 1924 Exhibition will undoubtedly be the miracle in values, whilst the equipment will give occasion for wonder, especially when the days when hoods, windscreens, lamps, horns, and even lamp brackets formed extras on the bill are remembered. It really seems as if manufacturers have reached the limit in equipment furnishing, for in many instances it covers, besides the generally accepted equipment, windscreen, driving mirror, speedometer, spare wheel and tyre, rear windscreen, grease gun, spare petrol can and holder, a supply of lubricating oil, licence holder, shock absorbers, and spring gaiters.

The announcement of new prices a little time before the opening of the Show, which policy has been adopted by many firms of late years, is no doubt an advantage to the motorist, because it gives him an idea as to the prices which will rule for next season. The visitor to the Show, therefore, is already cognisant of the prices, and will be able to have his mind completely centred upon the comparisons in value, thereby permitting him to arrive at a much quicker decision.

The character of the Show has always been essentially international, which is largely responsible for Olympia being the recognised world's market, and gives the reply to the question why motorists and traders from all parts of the world are attracted to this great Exhibition; the nations represented including Great Britain, France, America, Italy, Belgium, and Holland.

The latest American licensing returns illustrate the remarkable strides made by the automobile; in U.S.A. it is reckoned that 7.2 of the population own a car, which record, however, is beaten by California, where every third person is an owner. It will, therefore, be perceived that Great Britain has a very long way to go before these figures are approached, but without doubt the gap will be considerably lessened, for the models at the Show will certainly exercise their persuasive powers and cause thousands of waverers to hesitate no longer. With petrol, tyres and cars cheaper, and with the opportunity of obtaining any make by deferred payments, enabling the vehicle to be purchased out of income, the chief obstacles against car ownership will be swept away.

In the miniature light car and the most expensive motor in the world Great Britain holds pride of place. but between these two extremes international rivalry of the keenest character is manifest, offering motorists a bewildering wealth of very fine vehicles. Fierce competition centres around the medium powered car, which, by reason of its utility, has the largest demand, and in the markets of the £300 to £500 classes the purchaser will be amazed at the various types at his command.

To the individual who talks of finality in design the various chassis will give emphatic contradiction, but although finality has been by no means reached, the Show reveals no revolutionary change. The general lay-out of the engine, clutch, gear-box, and final drive will follow the accepted lines. It is in improvements that progress is manifest; the employing of specially treated steels, which combine remarkable strength with extreme lightness, the development of miraculous power from miniature engines, and improved systems of suspensions, are a few points which will strike the observant visitor when examining the engineering side of the Show.

Those firms who entered upon what is termed "mass production" are now giving their customers the price advantages which this method of manufacture allows, together with a sound reliable car in which weaknesses have been eliminated by experience. It must not, however, be assumed that the "mass production" car predominates; the number of manufacturers who are exhibiting illustrates the desire for individuality; to have something different, something unique, and, it may be added, something better, is subconsciously ingrained into the motorist's ego, which is all for the good of the industry, resulting in features stamped with individuality, and thereby saving the motor from complete standardisation, which would be detrimental to progress. There is infinite variety in the models on view; engines with 8, 6, 4, and 2 cylinders; side by side valves still put up a good fight against the overhead system; three-speed or four-speed boxes have their adherents; and although the six-cylinder cars are increasing in number and marketing at extremely tempting prices, there appears to be a lull in the battle of the cylinders, even the "six" diehards apparently arriving at the conclusion that there are good points in a four-cylinder which cannot be denied, and for which there is a strong appeal among a large majority of motorists.

One of the great features of the 1924 Show is the popularity of the saloon type of vehicle. To-day even those who were most antagonistic in the past to the completely closed car not only admit its advantages, but in many instances decide that the saloon must be their choice when investing in a new car. The great drawback to the saloon in the old days was its excessive weight, making it only suitable for big powered chassis, but the great revelation in coachwork to-day permits saloon bodies to be fitted to quite baby chassis.

The two other features of outstanding attraction will be the development in tyres, known as the "Comfy," "Balloon," "Low Pressure," and front-wheel brakes. It must be confessed that when the Balloon tyre entered into the field it upset a good many of the existing theories.

Motorists had been urged to keep their tyres pumped hard, and the manufacturers used to produce a cover with a generous amount of rubber on the tread. It was only natural, therefore, that motorists viewed with suspicion the Balloon tyre, although its merits were immediately apparent, but to-day tyre manufacturers can furnish such remarkable evidence of long mileage, safety, and freedom from punctures, despite the fact that the tyres are much thinner than the orthodox type, that it is not surprising to find low pressure tyres figuring as standard equipment on a large number of 1925 cars.

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YUGOSLAVIA AND THE ADRIATIC.

In the current issue of the *Economic and Financial Review* of Belgrade there is a most interesting article on "The Connection of the Danube with the Adriatic Sea," by M. G. Casteran. He points out that the different commercial routes of Yugoslavia are used almost exclusively for carrying towards foreign markets various commodities, and that, despite the advantages which the Adriatic ports and the lines leading to them might be able to offer, Yugoslav foreign trade is distinctly directed towards the north and north-west. He continues:—

In all economic circles it is unanimously agreed that the outlet on the Adriatic Sea obtained by the breaking up of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire should not remain a mere passive possession. The Southern Slavs have desired this frontage to the world too much not to feel all the advantages that they can get from it now and in the future. But the question of the reconstruction of the railways and the connection of the Danubian districts with the Adriatic ports then arises, and we find ourselves up against one of the most difficult questions with which the governments which have come to power in Belgrade since the War have had to deal.

At first it was a question of carrying out the junction of Belgrade with one of the Yugoslav ports nearest to Fiume. Bakar, Split, and even Shibenik were subject to choice, and each of them had ardent defenders. The conclusion of the gold dollar loan with the Blair group in America revived these disputes. The funds from this loan were to be used up to the amount of 75 million dollars for the construction of the Adriatic line and the equipment of the terminal port of the line.

After much hesitation and a long examination of the different plans which had been put before the Department in charge of new constructions at the Ministry of Communications (there were not less than eight plans to be studied), the line from Belgrade through Vishegrad to the Kotor estuary was adopted and the engineers of the Blair group began to work out plans with a view to starting work as soon as the loan had been successfully issued. . . . The choice of one single terminal point was strongly criticised. The question was clearly put; the connecting line between the Danube and the Adriatic should be a centre on which branch lines should converge and a route to be used by international traffic. Can this end be achieved by the construction of the single line or by the creation of a complete system? The Association of Yugoslav Engineers which was holding its congress in Zagreb at the time when the Blair Loan negotiations were in process, answered this question by rejecting the first solution and put forward a complete plan elaborated by the engineer Vasskovitch and supported by his thesis on the subject. We do not believe that amid all the controversy that has arisen over the route which this Adriatic line should take there exists a more clear and more complete statement of the whole question.

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The writer begins by stating bluntly enough that the kingdom has never had a railway policy properly speaking. We should note that this work was done in 1922, and that since then many of the deficiencies have been made good. M. Vasskovitch then recalls the fact that a conference of experts, delegates from the different regional administrative headquarters, arranged a programme including the construction of seventy-four new lines.

M. Vasskovitch criticises the suggestion of a Belgrade Adriatic line which does not provide for the satisfaction of the complex interests of post-War Serbia. He attributes a great importance to the communications of the different provinces of our kingdom with the Adriatic. He considers the communications with Italy, Austria-Hungary, Roumania, Bulgaria, and Greece are sufficient for the moment, even from the strategical point of view. The direction of our communications towards the south is of great importance. With the present development of our coast it cannot be a question either of a single Adriatic line, or even of a principal line which should be of predominant importance. Several lines of equal importance should be considered whose object should be to connect the Adriatic with the different districts of its hinterland by lines which should follow natural paths such as the beds of rivers, low-lying land, etc. Furthermore, these arterial lines should be interconnected.

It seems that the chief error committed up to the present has been that of elaborating plans for ideal systems. It is more necessary to think of plans which can be immediately carried out. There are some lines of which the need is most urgent, others which may form part of a programme to be carried out over a long period. It seems that it is not realised that the first works to be begun should be those which are intended to unite Serbia and Montenegro with the liberated districts of the south. It is in our opinion the surest way of ensuring economic and national consolidation. It must not be forgotten that these districts were centred economically on Salonika up to the year 1912, and that now that they are separated from this port they are constantly waiting in their isolation for the initiative which will give them the prosperity to which they can lay claim.

To sum up, all the advisers seem to agree that the port of Split is much better fitted than that which would have still to be created on the Kotor Estuary to act as the outlet for the goods brought towards the sea by the Adriatic line or other lines. That will in no way hinder Kotor from becoming the port of Southern Serbia, while the port at Baroshe will receive the traffic carried by the already existing Zagreb-Soushak line. We must, however, keep in view the material point of view, and consider, for example, that it will be more to the interest of Belgrade to be connected with Split, from which it is but 420 kilometres distant, than to Kotor by a line which would have to be constructed over a length of more than 600 kilometres. The cost of carriage of a ton of merchandise from Belgrade to the Kotor Estuary would be 28 dinars, whereas the cost to take it to Split would be only 20 dinars.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT AND COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 19.

As a result of the great pressure put upon it by the large cultivators, the Government has decided to intervene as purchaser on the local cotton market—the spot market only, not as many wanted the futures market—and instructions have been given to the National Bank of Egypt to start operations forthwith. Though no limit has been announced, it is understood that the Government is prepared to make more extensive purchases than before, and that its main object is to maintain the margin between American and Egyptian at a reasonable figure. I gather that the financial authorities of the Government recognise that at best this can be but a palliative, but that they had to bow to the pressure of public opinion.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Dull.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended September 18, state :—

The market during the week has, on the whole, been somewhat heavy. The net changes since last Thursday are :—Sakellaridis, $0.15 down for November, $0.10 down for January, $0.50 down for March; Ashmouni, $0.80 down for October, $0.95 down for December, $0.90 down for February. Prices have approximately followed the fluctuations of New York. At one time Sakel was $1½ and Uppers $2½ down from last week, but a reaction to-day raised prices, so that the losses on the week are reduced to small proportions. The demand from abroad has been rather better than last week, but it is not to this that the reaction is due; the reason of to-day's improvement is the report that the Government has decided this season again to support the market, if necessary. No details of this decision are known, but the mere report has been sufficient to inspire a return of confidence on the part of speculators, and the liquidation of the balance of the long positions created during the summer has ceased.

The difference between the Sakel and Uppers contract has widened again to 990 points; it appears that sales of Sakel for September shipment are rather larger than it was thought, and arrivals accordingly are not weighing on the market. The turnover of business has been fairly large, and the better demand from consuming centres has been reflected in the purchases by export houses. The week's receipts amount to 174,915 krs., against exports 73,055 krs.; the stock stands at 468,560 krs. The consumption figures of cotton in the U.S.A. for the month of August are 357,000 B/s, against 347,000 B/s the previous month and 492,000 B/s during August last year.

Spot.—The market has been somewhat more active during the week. Total sales amount to about 15,300 B/s, of which we estimate 4,500 B/s Sakel, 9,000 B/s Uppers, 1,500 B/s Zagora, 100 B/s Pilion, 100 B/s White, and 100 B/s Brown.

Sakellarides.—All grades have been dealt in, but the bulk of the business done has been in cotton above Fully Good Fair. Fully Good Fair is still much in demand, but the new crop arrivals have not so far included much of this grade. The premiums for the higher grades have stiffened somewhat.

Lower Egypt Zagora.—There has been a little more inquiry for this variety, but buyers are not out to pay high prices. Holders, however, are reasonable in their demands, and with the supply of this cotton increasing daily, they are fairly ready sellers.

Uppers.—A good business has been done in the grades from Fully Good Fair/Good to Fully Good at about last week's premiums. Fully Good Fair is as yet in small supply and difficult to buy except at very full prices. The lower qualities are neglected.

Various.—There has been a small turnover in Pilion, White, and Brown, practically all in the high grades.

Crop, 1924.—There is very little to say on the crop. The Sakel crop is maturing regularly, and prospects are for a good yield. The average condition is at present slightly above normal, and the pink boll worm attack is not heavier than usual. Our latest inspection in Upper and Middle Egypt confirms that the crop there has not turned out at all as well as expected; very hot weather during August forced many bolls to open prematurely, and the result will be an average yield about 10 per cent. lower than last year.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Egyptian Crop Estimates.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended September 24 :—.

Egyptian Spot.—A very fair inquiry has again been witnessed, and although a decrease of some seven hundred bales has to be recorded in the sales, this is quite understandable when one considers the very poor selection of spot cotton which has been available, together with the fact that the week has been marked by two very surprising Government crop estimates. The first, from Egypt, was treated here with derision, but unfortunately Alexandria (which had already been electrified by some modest purchases on Government account) seized the opportunity to rush prices up, and this had the usual effect of checking business on this side.

The rise failed to hold (as was expected) and spinners were again showing interest in the spot cotton when out came an unexpectedly "bullish" American crop report. Prices in both markets again soared upwards, and a further check to spot

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business has resulted. Apparently this second rise is not going to hold either, and we look for a further resumption of trade buying before long, as, generally speaking, it is surprising how calmly the trade has taken these two rapidly succeeding shocks. The opinion is becoming fixed that a crop of Egyptian cotton from 7,500,000 to 7,750,000 kantars may be confidently expected. The latest news speaks of the Sakel crop as turning out better than had been expected, but reports of increased damage to the Upper crop are on the increase. "Overland" samples of the earlier shipments (due here this next week-end) are satisfactory, both for Sakel anl Uppers, and a fair business has taken place in this cotton for early delivery. Shippers, on the whole, have not been unreasonable when bids have been sent.

A good c.i.f. businss took place early in the week, but this died away when price fluctuations became so erratic. The local inquiry has displayed few fresh features. Sakel, about Good Fair to Fully Good Fair, has been in good request at irregular prices, and "300 to 600 on" cotton has received its usual share of attention, but for both the results obtained have been poor. The "off" cotton continues to be pressed for sale. In Uppers, "the best close at hand," that is to say, on board the Sitra or the City of Lancaster, has been a popular inquiry, and such cotton has changed hands at prices ranging from 17.00d. to 18.50d. per lb.

A fair business has been done in Sudan cotton at hardening rates, Sakel predominating. Brown, Pilion and White cotton have been rather more in the limelight, chiefly for shipment. It will be interesting to observe to what extent the arrival of the two ships mentioned above will affect the spot prices here. A large proportion of their cargoes must already have been sold whilst in transit.

For the present, the discounts at which the Liverpool market stands as compared with Alexandria will act as a check on the sending of consignments, and this should have the effect of keeping up prices at this end. Thus, if any break occurs, it seems reasonable to expect it in Egypt, where the weight of the daily arrivals must soon be felt, rather than here. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending September 19 were returned as 7,094 bales. Estimated sales 1,500 Egyptian and 600 Sudan. Quotations for Upper and Brown have been raised 90 points. In Sakellaridis, Fair is 85 points up, Good Fair and Fully Good Fair are 115 points higher, while Good, Fine, and Extra Fine are 100 points higher on the week. Fully Good Fair Sakel to-day, 25.35d.

Egyptian Futures.—A steady upward movement has been in process throughout the interval since our last report, but more confidence could be expressed in the present level had the appreciation been due to legitimate supply and demand factors rather than interference from outside sources with the natural course of the market. Towards the end of last week rumours of Government intervention in Egypt to stabilise values began to gain ground, and we believe that actually some small purchases of spot cotton in Alexandria were effected on their account. This was evidently sufficient to cause the speculative element there to enter the market, with the result that prices were rapidly rushed up $2. The Government followed up their first move by issuing a crop estimate on Monday of 5,944,000 kantars; this figure was so absurdly low that it had little effect, and, in cabling the information, most of the larger commercial houses confirmed their own private estimates, which generally range from 7 to 7¾ million kantars. Yesterday prices started to react, but the publication of the American Bureau caused a sharp upturn, both here and in Egypt, and, following the movement in the American markets, the top prices of the week were registered this morning. Profit-taking and absence of sufficient trade support have since caused a drop of, roughly, 60 points from the high level, and at to-night's close the list shows gains of 70 to 117 points for near and 81 to 104 for more distant positions. The heavy and erratic fluctuations witnessed have proved very disconcerting to the trade, and spinners have adopted a conservative policy in their purchases. Improved supplies of American staple and outside growths should reduce the competition for the Egyptian qualities somewhat during the coming season; even although the carry-over is so small, the larger crop grown promises a visible supply about equal to that obtaining at this time last year. Although a further closing up in the Alexandria/Liverpool difference has taken place during the week, our contract is still far and away below value in comparison with the overseas market, a state of affairs that is reflected in the increasing strength of near positions. On the whole, we are inclined to take a moderately "bearish" view of the situation. If the trade were behind this week's rise, we would not oppose it, but the crop movement is as yet in its earliest stage, and to hold a permanent advance the Egyptian Government would have to commit themselves heavily.

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Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	92.75-92.85
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	860-870
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	340-350,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5¾-1.5 33/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	825-840
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.45⅛-4.45⅜
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	84.95-84.05
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	149¼-149½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	101.80.90
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THE NEAR EAST

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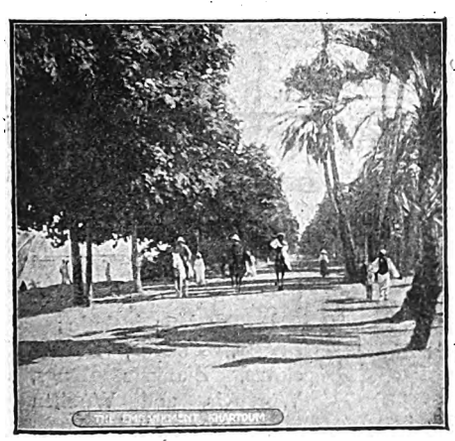

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No. 700—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Hejaz.

The abdication of King Hussein in favour of his son the Emir Ali will not necessarily clear up the situation in the Hejaz. He had antagonised his own people, and when the challenge came from the Nejd they refused to help him. Whether his downfall will satisfy Sultan Ibn Saud and cause the latter to withdraw his invading forces remains to be seen. If the Hejazis were united, they should experience little difficulty in expelling any force that the Wahhabis could send to occupy their country. Moreover, until a definite process of "conversion" has taken place, it is hardly to be expected that Hejazis will welcome Wahhabi doctrines, with their ban on tobacco and coffee, quite apart from possible interference with the Pilgrimage. The leisurely tactics of the Wahhabis suggest that they are not working to any very comprehensive programme; their immediate objective was King Hussein in Mecca, and he has eliminated himself without a struggle. If the Hejazis are as spineless as their ruler, the Wahhabis might have to remain in occupation in the absence of any other solution, for it is unlikely that other countries or people will come to the rescue of the Hejazis, if they do not care to help themselves. The Arabian peninsula is, perhaps, the one place where inter-State quarrels can be fought out to an issue without affecting the peace of the rest of the world. British feelings at the disappearance of King Hussein are necessarily mixed. He had been an ally during the War, and Great Britain wished him well; but when it came to a question of regulating the relations between the two countries in the light of actual developments the King proved himself quite impossible, and forfeited the regard that he had previously won. In view of what has happened, it is perhaps as well that no treaty with him was ever signed.

Turkey and Iraq.

The Turkish Government would seem to be anxious to establish a reputation for being as slow to acknowledge its mistakes as it is quick to commit them. It would have been a very easy matter to disown the violation of the Iraqi frontier, to attribute the incident to excess of zeal on the part of the authorities on the spot, and to promise an immediate investigation. Even if nothing further had happened, Turkey's attitude would have impressed the Council of the League of Nations favourably, and predisposed it to make allowances for local indiscretions. But to the offence against her Treaty obligations Turkey has added the discourtesy of delay in acknowledging the communications of the British Government. No further incidents have occurred on the Iraqi frontier; the Royal Air Force has seen to that. Turkish troops, however, are still on Iraqi territory, and, if they are not attacked and driven out, seem prepared to remain there. The whole episode betrays shortsightedness on the part of the Turks and a failure to grasp the essentials of the position. The discrepancy between the Turkish and the British claim is so great, affecting as it does the whole vilayet of Mosul, that a minor incursion of Turkish troops across the present frontier can have no practical effect on the relative positions of the two disputants. In these circumstances Turkey stands to gain nothing by placing herself in the wrong. Her arguments for the possession of the Mosul vilayet are prejudiced by the military movements on the frontier, and her troops will have to be withdrawn before the Commission appointed by the League to investigate the question can complete its task. The impression gained from the proceedings at Geneva is that the Turkish Government will consider that it has gained its end when it bows to the decision of the League of Nations, and is not compelled to acknowledge defeat at the hands of Great Britain alone.

Political Changes in Greece.

Political changes in Greece continue to take place with greater frequency than is good for the new Republic. When M. Sophoulis assumed office it was recognised that real political power was vested in other hands, and he has quickly found his position intolerable. When M. Kaphandaris proposed, without reference to the Prime Minister, that a Coalition Ministry would be an improvement upon the existing one, M. Sophoulis took umbrage at the slight imposed upon him and resigned. For

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a short time M. Papanastasiou, the first Republican Prime Minister, stood in the way of a Coalition; but M. Kaphandaris has succeeded in carrying his point. M. Papanastasiou's followers remain in opposition, while the other parties combine to form a Government under M. Michalokopoulos. The new Cabinet will be in a position to retain office so long as the component parts pull together. It will have a substantial majority in the Chamber, and may be expected to submit to that body something in the nature of a comprehensive programme.

The Reparations Commission in Bulgaria.

On another page is published a long letter from M. Stoyanoff, Director of the Public Debt in Bulgaria, taking exception to certain views expressed in an article on the Bulgarian Reparations Commission that appeared in THE NEAR EAST of July 8. The main contention of the article in question was to urge a reduction in the size, and consequently cost, of the Commission. It was suggested that the Commission could still be of service to Bulgaria, but that for this purpose it should be able to draw upon the experience already gained by retaining some of the senior members, though not actually the heads, of each Allied mission. M. Stoyanoff, whose official position, as well as his personal attainments and character, entitles him to speak on the subject, challenges this point. He would like to see the Commission abolished altogether, or, at least, reduced to proportions that would make it a little more than a registry of payments made by Bulgaria. It is a matter for regret that the services rendered by the Commission should be so soon forgotten in the dispute that has arisen over its future composition. No one wishes the Commission to be other than a help to Bulgaria, and it was with this end in view, as well as to lessen its cost, that the British proposal for reducing its size was made. The opposition to the proposal came from the quarters that were responsible for the more onerous burdens laid upon Bulgaria. When responsibility could be shared, the heavy hand was favoured; as soon as there was a chance of posing as the lenient friend, the opportunity was seized, regardless of Bulgarian interests. It is only natural that the Bulgarians should wish to be free of the Commission, and in the face of the pettiness revealed in its ranks, there is some ground for supposing that its major usefulness has gone.

The Revolt in Georgia.

The British Government is probably as anxious as any member of Parliament or private citizen to see the Georgians protected from Bolshevist terrorism, but it finds itself powerless in the matter. If the draft Treaty with the Soviet Government had been concluded in any other way than the one in which it actually came to be signed, we should have expected an attempt on the part of the British Government to stipulate for decent treatment of the Georgians. But the British negotiators found themselves with a very small margin in hand in their dealings with the Soviet representatives, because they had allowed the latter to discover how eager the Labour Party was to make political capital out of a Treaty with Russia. Accordingly, violence has to be done to the nation's instincts in leaving the Georgians to the tender mercies of Bolshevist terrorism. In spite of the cold-blooded murder of hostages, the people of Georgia are putting up a good fight. Without help from outside, however, there can be but little chance of their holding their own against the overwhelming forces of the Soviet Government; and once more we must regret the ill-advised, though gallant, struggle for freedom. If the British Government's Treaty with the Soviets is wrecked, its rejection will be due in no small part to the loathing of Bolshevist tyranny that the story of Georgia's sufferings has once more revived.

Air Routes in the East.

Although no other country than Great Britain has much to show in the way of actual achievement in regard to air services outside Europe, it is noticeable that our rivals in the air are now coming forward with several ambitious programmes. A German company is reported to have concluded an agreement with the Persian Government which promises to place an important Trans-Asiatic airway in German hands. This line, starting from Stockholm, and connecting Leningrad (Petrograd) with Baku and Tiflis, is to be extended to Teheran and thence to Bushire. A contract between the Greek Government and a French company provides for an air service between Marseilles and Syria viâ Athens, with proposed subsequent extensions to Iraq and India and to Egypt. Not the least satisfactory feature of these agreements is the confidence that they imply in the future of the countries that will be served by these air routes. There is no need to feel pessimistic about British air potentialities after Lord Thomson's recent trip, which entailed a flight of over 2,500 miles in the air without the slightest hitch; but it is the Royal Air Force that has blazed the trail in the Middle East, and so far commercial aviation has held back. It will be unfortunate if British companies wake up to their duties in this sphere only when all the best air routes have been pegged out by other nationalities.

INDIA.

The Monsoon.

In nearly the whole of India the rains are now over, and once again it is possible to record a generally favourable season. In the North the end of September has been marked, as often happens, by a tremendous burst of rain, bringing floods, landslips, and breached railways, but such damage is merely local, and against it must be set the assurance of largely increased winter sowings, giving promise of an ample surplus of grain, oilseeds, and fodder for the country as a whole. The South has been somewhat less fortunate, with too much rain in some places and too little in others, but, speaking generally, and assuming a normal winter, India ought to have plenty to sell

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next year, and, consequently, ought to be able to buy on an extended scale, a position which is healthy for politics as well as trade. It ought to mean also a progressive increase in wealth, but old vices die hard, and just now the country is squandering its surplus income on jewellery, precisely as it has done any time in the last twenty centuries. Indian politicians have been pressing for an inquiry into the economic condition of the people; if they would only take the trouble to study the facts already on the record they would require no further information regarding the greatest single cause of Indian poverty.

Affairs in Bengal.

Some of the papers on this side have lately been paying attention to the anxieties of the situation in Bengal, where the anarchists are again busy with threats to murder prominent officials, extended smuggling of arms, and the intimidation of witnesses, which is so effective locally in hampering the administration of the law. The precise nature of the connection between extremist politicians and political murderers is naturally obscure, but nobody really doubts that some sort of connection exists, and the conjecture may be hazarded that extremists are in a position to set murderers to work, but quite unable to control them if they are once started. The real danger lies in the failure of Bengal politicians as a body to develop even a rudimentary sense of political responsibility, such as the constitutional reforms postulate. Intent on a particular objective, some of them are willing to accept almost any help that may be offered, and in many cases they lack the courage necessary to make a stand, while decent people, so numerous in the province, think only of holding themselves aloof. The whole burden of keeping the peace thus falls on the Government, which cannot count on any active popular support. Lord Lytton's recent speeches have shown that he is alive to the danger, and it is for him to choose the moment when words must give place to acts.

Indianisation in England.

The eager publicists who insist that all India's work in Europe should be done by Indians, and by Indians only, may possibly find a useful lesson in the regrettable retirement of the High Commissioner, which was announced in our last issue. Sir Dadiba Dalal has worked in England for little over a year, and now leaves it with impaired health. A similar result has followed from appointment to the Secretary of State's Council so often that we believe it is regarded as normal in Whitehall, and it seems impossible to resist the conclusion that a prolonged stay in this country is a very risky experiment for Indians of mature age. We regard the post of High Commissioner as one which may appropriately be held by an Indian, provided one with the necessary qualifications and aptitudes can be found, but at the same time a reasonable continuity of tenure is essential to success, and will become more, rather than less, important as the functions of the High Commissioner increase. The City wants to know the man with whom it has to deal, and the interests of India are likely to suffer if its representative in London is changed with the frequency which may seem natural in Delhi.

The National Political League received a cable from King Hussein at Mecca last week, stating that his son, His Royal Highness Prince Zeid, had started for London. Prince Zeid has not been in England before.

The Air Ministry announces that Lord Thomson, the British Air Minister, returned to Egypt on October 2, from Baghdad by way of Amman, not Damascus, as had been intended, and stayed the night at Jerusalem before proceeding to Alexandria. Lord Thomson sailed for England last Friday, previously having been received by King Fuad at Montaza Palace.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Dissolution.

The politicians, the party wirepullers, and all those who thrive on Parliamentary intrigue, are having the time of their lives. First they stuff us with one tale of the approaching election, then with another. First the issue is to be over the Campbell case—that monstrous and yet, from the severely political point of view, petty miscarriage of justice—then over the Soviet Treaty. First the Labour Party are to accept the kind offices of the pusillanimous Liberals to get them out of the Campbell mess, then they are to challenge the country on the question. From all of which it would appear that the country is once more to be the sport of tactics, party tactics, futile tactics.

It is, for those who cannot gather themselves to be good party men, a most disheartening time. Nobody—and this is the solidest, perhaps the only, truth in the whole situation—wants a General Election. And yet what do we see? The Socialists ready to resign if defeated on the Campbell case without consideration whether such resignation is in the national interest, and the Unionists ready to make their appeal to the country merely because it is considered that their party machinery is now fit to bear the strain. And as for the Liberals—Heaven knows what these wobbling tacticians want! They stand to lose whatever befalls. Their shroud is prepared and ready for them to wear as soon as they appeal to the national undertakers.

Party Chances.

Nobody, I say, wants an election, and this, not because satisfaction or confidence in the Government is felt, but because there is literally no urgent question that could better be solved by any other minority administration. The Government's record is plain for all the world to see; nothing to be clamant about, certainly, but neither was that of the preceding Conservative Administration. In short, the clear fact is that this Government has neither done well enough to merit a larger representation in Parliament, nor has it done badly enough to warrant the putting in of an effete party which has had its chance and missed it.

For it would be foolish to deny that the Conservative Party, as shown, at any rate by the Conference last week at Newcastle, is effete. It has, apparently, nothing new to say, nothing new to offer.

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And if the old Conservatism was not sufficiently attractive to win the last election, what can be said of it now that it has not even the boldness to include Protection in its programme? However, its party agents have said "Go"; so that in a few weeks we shall all have to be voting against somebody or other.

The general anticipation is that the Tories will gain in the forthcoming election, mainly at the expense of the Liberals, but also to some extent at the expense of the Labour Party. If the Soviet Treaty is made the chief *casus belli*, this outlook seems to me a little optimistic, and I should say that Labour will gain, especially in the North of England, where, indeed, twenty-five Liberal members are reported to be in favour of the Treaty.

But no party, it is certain, will have an absolute majority in Parliament, and it is this fact which has brought out of its dusty corner the old Churchill and Beaverbrook musical-box, with its eternal jingle of "Coalition." Sweetly and soothingly this pleasant, remote ditty falls on our ears, but how meaningless it all is! It only reminds one of the sentimental past, and, as related to the present age, has no significance whatever.

The time is really very serious for the Liberals. Whatever happens in November to the Labour and Conservative parties, one can take it for granted that they will each live to renew their battles, but of the Liberals, who shall say that? If they join forces with the Conservatives, the Liberals are eclipsed, and if they do not, they can, as the present instance shows, be at the mercy of clever party manœuvre from either of the rival sides. Mr. Asquith may say that he commands the situation, but if he thwarts Mr. Baldwin he is liable in turn to be thwarted by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. May the country be lenient to the Liberals in the days of their passing, for they once (so it is said) were great and good men!

The Conservative Leader.

Mr. Asquith has revived—"come back," as the papers say—and is now in his best fighting trim, which means, of course, that he is at his best in making ingenious compromises. Not because of his leadership, but rather because of what he represents, will Liberalism go down at the polls.

But what of Mr. Baldwin, the head of the Conservative Party? There has never, one is convinced, been a sincerer, more honest, and more patriotic man at the head of any party, and his political beliefs are beyond reproach. Then why does one feel no glow for his party, no sort of conviction that it has a greater balance of popular merit than have the other two? For two seemingly contradictory reasons—he is not a leader, and his party is not worthy of him.

His general attitude is noble; the particular acts of his party are either insignificant or petty. His work in all probability is done, his party's to be done. His lead has been a moral one; what his party wants first is the mental one. That is why, one feels, the leadership will fall eventually to Mr. Winston Churchill, whose brains are more equal to compensate for any lack of morality than Mr. Baldwin's morality is to compensate for any lack of brains. The present Conservative leader is a good man; but any greatness that he may have achieved will have been outside politics.

The Church and Youth.

At Oxford during the past week we have had a rather painful experience of the vanity and the inanity of youth, which addressed itself at the Church Conference to the shortcomings of ecclesiastical teaching and practice. It asserted that its spiritual demands were left unsatisfied, that the Church did not "move with the times," that clergymen concerned themselves more with local defects than with national omissions. One was heartily glad, after all this confident lecturing, to find one Church of England priest explaining that the middle-aged and the old, who, he implied, were not so critical, were also the care of the Church.

The Church—let us admit it—has lost its hold on society. But is it really in a worse position than it has been for centuries? Before the War there may have been a certain amount of lip-homage which is aggressively absent to-day, but in all probability this pother arises only through the fact that young men are not so reticent now as they were before the war, which undoubtedly prompted questions, the Church's answer to which left them unsatisfied.

That we are in this country in a phase of agnosticism is, however, not to be denied. But it will pass, and if the Church is wise—and it is—it will let it pass. The Church of England, more than most Churches, is peculiarly liable to the charge of neglecting social needs, because, not claiming, as did the medieval Church in England, actively to inform society and society's moral precepts and actual practices, it stands to lose by every mistake that the State makes. Without going into the question of whether the Church was formed by the State or *vice versâ*, it is patent that much of the criticism which youth last week levelled at the Church should have been directed at the State.

The Teaching of Russian.

Even more dangerous to the Labour Party than the genuine trade unionists are those of its followers who once were Liberals. It is extraordinary what measure of resentment these adherents of the Labour Party arouse in their opponents. The latest example is that provided by Mr. Trevelyan, Minister of Education, with his proposal to interchange Russian and British teachers. The resentment felt at the prospect of the inculcating in this country of real Bolshevist doctrines, taught by real Bolshevists, gives some idea of the moral force lying behind the opposition to the Treaty with Soviet Russia.

This feeling may be righteous, but it is probably based on ignorance. One's conclusion must be in this sense when one reads that the Government of Russia, while quite willing to receive British teachers in Moscow, is unwilling to allow Russian teachers to come to this country, in case they should be corrupted by the prosperity of a capitalist country. The psychology of the fearful is indeed a fascinating thing; one imagines that psychological poles meet (and collide) more frequently than any other sort.

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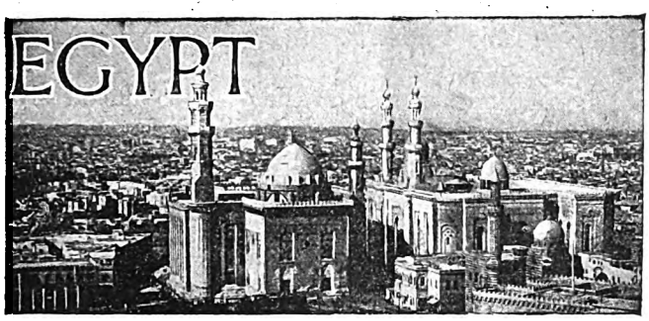

Cairo, September 27.

H.M. King Fuad.

According to the cables, most alarming accounts have been published in the home Press about the health of King Fuad, who, it is stated, is suffering from a severe congestion of the nerves. This is a pure invention, and the only ground for any reference to His Majesty's health is the fact that he has been laid up for about three weeks with an attack of lumbago, which has forced him to suspend all receptions. The attack is, however, practically at an end now, and King Fuad will resume his public duties within the next few days.

The Plot Against the Régime.

The inquiry into the conspiracy which, it has been alleged in official circles, has been discovered against the present régime has come to the fore during the past week owing to a somewhat sensational article published by *Al Ahram*. In this article this paper declared that the inquiry had come to an end without any result, that it had been established that the accusations against the persons under arrest were without foundation, and that in the course of the inquiry the authorities had acted in violation of all constitutional guarantees; and it asked why no steps had been taken against those whose information inculpating innocent people who had been arrested and detained had been proved to be false. The Government at once issued a *communiqué* in which it formally denied these allegations, and declared that the inquiry had not yet been concluded, that it is, in fact, still in the hands of the Procureur-General, who has not yet made his committing or filing order, and that it is absolutely incorrect to say that measures have been taken in violation of the Constitution or the law.

I understand that the authorities are still awaiting the return of some Egyptians from Syria and the arrival of certain information from Rome, Vienna, and Paris before taking any decision with regard to the further steps to be adopted in regard to this conspiracy. Meanwhile, all but three of the people detained have been released, those still in custody including the redoubtable Sheikh Abdel Aziz Shawish.

The Treatment of British Officials.

From time to time references appear in the Press to the bad treatment which British officials are suffering at the hands of certain Egyptians in authority. It is rarely, however, that one has such definite evidence of such treatment as has been afforded by the case of Mr. St. Clair, of the Audit Department of the Egyptian State Railways.

Mr. St. Clair was amongst those due to leave the service on April last. Some time in the autumn of 1923 some frauds were discovered in the season ticket service and an inquiry was opened. Mr. St. Clair duly left on April 1, and received from his department the usual certificate to the effect that he was cleared of all responsibility and that the Egyptian Government had no claims against him.

At the end of April, having received no payment from the Government in connection with his compensation, he inquired as to the cause of delay, and was informed verbally that the delay was due to the responsibility which it was alleged lay upon him in connection with the season ticket frauds. This was the first intimation he had had that any complaint lay against him in this connection, and he at once wrote demanding particulars of the nature of charges that were made against him. To this letter he has never received a reply, nor has he ever been informed officially by the Egyptian Government that any charge lay against him.

In the meantime Mustapha Nahass Pasha, Minister for Communications, rose in his place in the Chamber of Deputies, and in reply to a question replied categorically that Mr. St. Clair's responsibility for the season ticket frauds had been established by his Departmnt. The Government, however, declined to substantiate this charge or put in writing the allegations made in Parliament, but did everything in its power to hold up the payment of the compensation due to Mr. St. Clair over six months ago. It is only thanks to the pressure that has been brought to bear that he has at last obtained settlement of his claim, but without any charge being formulated against him or any opportunity being afforded him to clear himself of the unwarrantable insinuations made by his Minister.

There had been ample time before Mr. St. Clair actually left the servce to formulate any charge in this connection, and the fact that his department, with the inquiry before it, gave him a clear certificate of discharge proves conclusively that there was no charge at all against him. A more glaring and disgraceful abuse of privilege and power than that committed by the Government in general, and the Minister for Communications in particular, in this case could not possibly be conceived, and Mr. St. Clair has the lively sympathy of his colleagues in the service, who together with the European community generally are most indignant at the behaviour of the Egyptian authorities.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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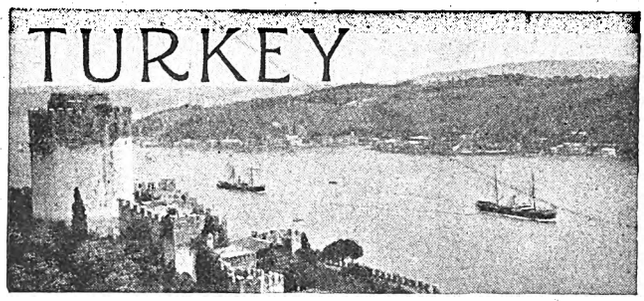

Constantinople, September 29.

The Budget.

Now that the question of the Budget for the coming year is coming on the *tapis*, everyone, official or private person, is beginning to ask himself how the Budget for the past year has worked out in practice. Vague pessimistic prognostications have been current in business circles for some time past, and the other day somebody rushed into print with the statement that there was likely to be a deficit of about 200 millions of pounds Turkish. As the total expenditure provided for in this year's Budget, apart from the payment of any liabilities in respect of foreign debts, amounted to some hundred odd millions, the possibility of such a deficit aroused alarm and despondency. A *démenti* promptly appeared; it was probably quite justified, for it is difficult to believe that, notwithstanding the open-handed manner in which ready cash can be found for purchases of aeroplanes and war material, there can possibly be such a deficit in the State finances. It is, however, undoubted that a serious deficit will be obvious long before the end of the financial year, and it would not surprise one to learn that it approached the figure of 60-70 millions. The Press has begun to wonder why the price of the Interior Loan, which, according to the papers, should be rising up to and above 60, has suddenly slipped back to the region of 48 on the eve of the promised payment of the current coupon, and is demanding the head of the Assistant Commissary of the Bourse on a charger for not stopping the wicked speculation of the wicked banks, which are nefariously scheming to depress this magnificent security. The real reason of the depression might be found in the suspicion that there is something rotten in the financial "State of Denmark."

Trade Statistics.

The greatest difficulty experienced by the conscientious journalist in this country is the absence of any reliable statistics. A Government Department is utterly useless for this purpose; either it has no statistics at all or they are so hopelessly "cooked" as to be worse than useless. One is driven to depend upon the fleeting impressions of the few European travellers who adventure themselves into the wilds of Anatolia, and then—*quot homines tot sententiæ*. Only a few very general commonplaces may be stated with any degree of confidence. The cereal crop is not up to expectations for various reasons, such as unfavourable weather, want of labour, inefficient distribution of seed, and want of machinery. The importation of foreign flour has been hindered by the imposition of a prohibitive duty, and the result is a steady rise in the price of bread and the prohibition of the export of corn. The other staple crops—tobacco, opium, and fruit—are only fair to middling, for obvious reasons, and cannot be relied upon to do much to help the somewhat rickety national trade balance. The Smyrna export season, which in normal times may be expected to provide a large amount of foreign currency, led this year to nothing more than a very short period of appreciation of the Turkish currency, which is now slipping back to what has become its normal gentle depreciation.

State Monopolies.

Among the numerous projects of reform one of the most far-reaching is that of the creation of a State monopoly of tobacco, which will displace the present "Régie Ottomane des Tabacs." As far as can be judged from the official and semi-official statements which appear from time to time, it is intended to reimburse to the "Régie" the amount of its capital and withdraw its concession. In place of the "Régie" a Department of State will enter the open market for the purchase of tobacco at market prices, and will grant to one or more Turkish limited companies the privilege of manufacturing cigarettes for consumption in Turkey. The State reserves to itself, however, the right of selling cigarettes and tobacco in Turkey. The result will undoubtedly be the same as is produced by State monopolies everywhere. One will have to smoke bad cigarettes at high prices, whereas until now cheap, good cigarettes have been one of the few blessings of this country.

Another monopoly which is going to descend upon us is a monopoly of matches. Large-type advertisements have been appearing in all the papers for the past fortnight inviting all the *intéressés* to tender for the privilege of supplying the whole country with matches at a hundred paras a box, with the obligation of setting up a factory in the country for the manufacture of the matches required. The last date for sending in tenders is according to some papers October 20, and according to others October 30; in any case, lapse of time allowed to the *intéressés* to study the matter and prepare their offers is so short that reasonably acute local observers are hinting pretty broadly in the Press that the submission of this and similar enterprises to public tender is nothing but a form, and that the future *concessionnaire* has already fixed things up privately.

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Jerusalem, September 27.

The Arab Executive.

The "Arab Executive" has, after many months' silence, come into vocal existence once more. Almost daily public protests and open letters to the High Commissioner make their appearance in the local Press. They adopt a curiously lofty tone, and very confidently repeat the sentiment that they voice the unanimous opinion of the Arabs of Palestine, whose absolute confidence the Arab Executive claims still to possess. And, it must certainly be admitted, that, despite the many other Arab parties that have sprung up in opposition to the Arab Executive of the Moslem-Christian Associations, it is the Arab Executive which still seems to speak with the greatest force (and to receive a correspondingly respectful hearing) in local Arab affairs.

At the moment the Arab Executive's chief protest is raised against the proposed land transaction in the neighbourhood of Nazareth. Some of the best agricultural land—or, to speak more correctly, land with the best agricultural possibilities—is in the Kishon Valley in South Galilee. For a long time Jewish colonies have been growing up here, and within the last two years more and more land in the valley has passed into the possession of one or other of the Jewish land-purchasing societies. A larger transaction than usual is in process of completion in the Afuleh neighbourhood, affecting the lands and fields of the Arab population of several villages. It would seem to the outsider to be but one more of the innumerable sales of land to Zionist organisations by non-resident owners, and hitherto nothing beyond theoretical opposition has even been raised from the guardians of Arab rights. This time, however, the Arab Executive is putting up a strong fight on behalf of the rights of the Arab tenants, who, it is maintained, will lose homes and livelihood if the transaction goes through, and that such deprival of rights is counter to this, that, or the other article in the Ottoman land laws, or that it is against the spirit of the second provision of the Balfour Declaration, or that it is contrary to such and such provisions made by the present Government of Palestine governing such land transfers. It is difficult to know just how much force there is in all the objections made. The owners of the territory in dispute are a Christian family named Sursuk living in Syria; and this is by no means the first deal that they have made with Jewish land purchasers. It is hardly likely that the Arab tenants stand to lose much by the change of a non-resident landlord interested purely and solely in his rents to a landlord whose only care is to sink as much money as possible into improving agricultural conditions and possibilities. The Arab tenant would seem to stand to gain considerably by the application of drainage, irrigation, modern agricultural machinery and methods. In view of the strained anxiety of the Government to avoid points of collision between Jew and Arab, it is inconceivable that it would allow a wholesale ousting of Arab villages and land workers, and it even more inconceivable that Jewish landowners would dare to attempt it. Political sentiment is, of course, the chief motive power at work in the Arab Executive's protest, and it would seem that there is sufficient strength in their position for the Government to promise that the negotiations shall be temporarily suspended until it has examined into the matter.

The Kadoorie Bequest.

There are other protests of less importance and interest. But one is curious enough to deserve mention. The Palestinian Arabs are beginning to show some interest in the "Kadoorie Bequest." This legacy of some £100,000, to be devoted to education in Palestine, has been referred to once or twice in these columns. First of all, the Jews considered it a grievance that they were not to get it all for their exclusive use, arguing that it had been left by a Zionist with purely Jewish needs in mind. After consulting the brother of the donor as to the probable intentions which lay behind the bequest, the trustees decided to devote the sum to both Jews and Arabs in equal shares, and, after much thought as to how best to apply the funds, it was resolved to use the Jewish half for the Hebrew Secondary School in Jerusalem and the Arab half for an agricultural school in Tul Keram. This Kadoorie Bequest problem has been under discussion now for well over a year, but to the present writer's knowledge no interest whatever was shown in it by Arab circles until a few days ago when the Arab Executive announced that, having gone into the question thoroughly, and having assured themselves that the money was not from a Zionist source, it claimed that a gross injustice was being perpetrated by giving half the benefits to Zionists; the fund must be utilised for the good of the entire population of Palestine equally—all communities benefiting in proportion

An Egyptian Night

NIGHT has fallen on Cairo. The streets of the Mousky are crowded—look closely, for the scene carries with it the glamour of the Arabian nights. Above the tric-trac of the dominoes in the cafes will be heard the sound of cymbals where the houris lead the dance—weird Salome dances which hold the senses spellbound. Across the desert, where the Sphinx and the Pyramids keep their eternal watch, silence and the miracle of stars enthral with mystery and imagination.

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to their numbers; the Zionists, far from receiving 50 per cent. must not be given more than a portion of the 7 per cent. (the official Arab Executive figures for the Jewish percentage of population in Palestine—it is most probably now something between 15 and 20 per cent.) which would fall to the Jews of Palestine, and be given no preference over the "non-Zionist" Jews of Palestine.

Dr. Weizmann.

Dr Chaim Weizmann is now on a visit to Palestine after an absence of two years. He first visited Tel Aviv, where he was given an official Jewish welcome. In a long statement, he announced his complete satisfaction with the way in which American Jewry was organising itself for providing for the Jewish National Fund, which would, quite certainly, be doubled or trebled in the two coming years. He was also optimistic about the political atmosphere (as it affected the Jewish National Home) both in British diplomatic circles and in Palestine. He thought that the edge of Arab opposition was broken. He promised to make another statement after three weeks on the basis of his examination of Palestinian and Zionist conditions on the spot.

IRAQ.

Baghdad. September 17.

The Hashimi Cabinet.

Shortly after taking office the new Cabinet issued a programme which is considered better than that of any of its predecessors. In view of Yassin Pasha's well-known tendency towards extreme opinions, its moderation is surprising, but is largely attributed to the restraining influence of Abdul Muhsin Beg (Interior) and Sir Sassoon Effendi (Finance). The programme reads as follows:—

(1) To hasten the promulgation of the Organic Law and the Electoral Law, to put them into force and assemble Parliament.

(2) To co-operate with our ally the British Government, to accept our responsibilities, to benefit from the experience and status of Britain in the development of Iraq, and to put the Anglo-Iraq Treaty into precise application.

(3) To endeavour to realise the wishes expressed in the amendments mentioned in the Assembly's resolution accepting the Treaty, and to lighten the burdens of the Iraq Government.

(4) To study the organisation and the cost of different Government departments, with a view to cutting down expenses in staff and maintenance to a figure which the country can afford; also to devote particular attention to the economic situation of the country, and to take measures which would promote great schemes of development.

(5) To investigate agricultural questions and irrigation, on which our economic progress depends, to co-ordinate the country's land policy and put it on a firm foundation.

(6) To strengthen national sentiment by all possible means, to complete our preparations for the defence of the country generally, and Mosul in particular, and to increase our armed forces. Also to establish as soon as possible diplomatic and friendly relations with neighbouring Governments and others.

(7) To promote the spread of education among all classes and inculcate the love of learning.

(8) To bring about happier conditions for the people of Sulaimaniyah, and to mitigate the hardships which they have undergone.

(9) To replace by new laws some of the laws and regulations which are now in force in the country, and which are not suited to the needs and habits of the country and the nation.

This programme was well received, and the Cabinet has done its best to put its intentions into effect. It has, for instance, passed the Customs Agreement with Syria, agreed to import teachers from Syria, instead of employing less efficient Iraqis, and considered the question of compulsory military service—all matters which the previous Cabinet had shelved. As the result of adhering to a programme which was greeted by the commendation of all classes, the Cabinet is now less popular than it was on its formation a month ago—another proof that however much the Baghdadi may admire perfection in the abstract, he dislikes any active effort to reach it.

Position of British Officials.

The Cabinet has devoted much time to the question of contracts for British officials. Under the terms of the Anglo-Iraq Treaty, a certain number of British officials have to be employed in the Iraq Administration. It is obligatory that eighteen specified posts should be filled, while the employment of the remainder is a matter for agreement between the two Governments. The Prime Minister, who is averse from the employment of British officials, is prepared to grant only short-term contracts, thereby fulfilling the letter if not the spirit of the Treaty. The British Government, realising the impossibility of obtaining the right type of official if only short contracts are offered, and also the probability that the present Treaty will on its conclusion be replaced by some other form of agreement which will prolong the alliance between the two countries, is urging the grant of ten or fifteen year contracts. The Cabinet has yielded to the extent of agreeing in principle to the granting of long contracts to a few specialists or officials holding important posts. Further deliberations will take place on the return of the High Commissioner from leave.

A Frontier Incident.

The Turkish Vali of Hakkiari decided to extend his law to the Assyrians who live just across the northern frontier of Iraq. By his indiscretions he impressed these tribes with the idea that he intended to bring them still closer under Turkish subjugation, and he was foolhardy enough to enter their territory with a comparatively small escort. He was promptly attacked and captured by a section of the Tkhuma, one of the most warlike of the Assyrian tribes. Though the Vali was subsequently released through the intercession of a headman of another section, the affray cannot but be damaging to Turkish prestige in that area.

It is probable that the recent crossing of the Iraq frontier by a body of Turkish irregulars is connected with this incident, especially as the Ottoman Government claims that the Vali's capture was engineered by the Government of Iraq. On

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receipt of news of this infringement of the frontier, aeroplanes were sent to disperse the invading column, which retired hastily. In view of the necessity of precautionary measures against similar aggressive action, the Government has found it expedient to proclaim martial law in the *qadhas* of Zakho and Amadiyah.

Sulaimaniyah.

The situation is fairly satisfactory, and rapid strides are being made in setting up an administration. Shaikh Mahmud is still in the mountains with a small following, and it is improbable that his surrender or capture will be effected for some time to come.

Return of Saiyid Talib.

Some uneasiness is manifest at the expected return of Saiyid Talib, who, as the result of inaccurate articles in some of the English newspapers, has gained at home a certain amount of undeserved sympathy over his expulsion from this country in 1920. Combining great determination with the utmost unscrupulousness, he is more feared than any man in Iraq, and his return can only add another to the existing difficulties of Administration. Though under the recently passed Organic Law he cannot be prevented from entering this country, he has been informed, it is stated, that permission to return carries with it no guarantee that he will not be arrested and tried on a charge connected with one or more of his past misdemeanours.

Visit of King Faisal to the Oilfields.

His Majesty paid a visit to Khanikin to inspect the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's workings in the Transferred Territories—that is, the territories transferred from Persian to the Ottoman Empire under the Turco-Persian Boundary Commission of 1914. He was accompanied by the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Justice and of Communications and Works, also by Mr. Griffin, acting-Director of Railways; Mr. Keeling, of the Turkish Petroleum Company; and Mr. Mylles, of the A.P.O.C. The King was keenly interested in all he saw. It was explained to him that of the eight wells so far sunk, only two had yielded definite results. The more prolific of the two was producing 2,000 gallons per diem—a satisfactory figure in itself, but small compared with the yield of a quarter of a million gallons a day derived from some of the wells in the company's South Persian fields. Before leaving, His Majesty formally opened one of the new wells by breaking a bottle of champagne on the drilling machinery. It is stated that the A.P.O.C. propose to erect an oil refinery in Iraq; this will be much appreciated by many of the inhabitants, for the price of petrol and oil in this country is nearly double what it is in England.

General.

The body of Major Imbrie, the American Consul who was murdered by a Teheran mob, passed through Baghdad on August 23, *en route* to Basra and Bushire, where it was placed on the American warship Trenton for conveyance to the United States. Accompanying the body were Mrs. Imbrie, Major Miles, the American Military Attaché at Constantinople, and a Persian guard of honour consisting of eight officers and four non-commissioned officers. A salute of eleven guns was given at the crossing of the frontier. At Baghdad, the acting High Commissioner, the Air Vice-Marshal, and other senior British officials, together with a guard of honour supplied by the Iraq Army, were present as the body left by rail for Basra, where it was received by British and Iraq escorts and placed upon the R.M.S. Vita.

H.E. the High Commissioner arrived by air on the evening of September 16, returning from his brief leave in England. On the same day Mr. Thomas Griffiths, M.P. (Treasurer of the Household), Mr. A. T. Davies, M.P., and Dr. S. H. Williams, M.P., arrived by the Nairn Overland Convoy. Mr. Clynes, Jun., who was expected to be one of the party, was recalled to London from Beyrouth by his father. The three members, who are understood to have come out to this country to study, among other matters, the oil question, are the guests of the High Commissioner.

Mr. N. G. Davidson, who has been acting as High Commissioner during Sir Henry Dobbs' absence, is expected to return shortly to his permanent service—the Sudan Civil Service.

BELGRADE UNIVERSITY.

Miss Phyllis Kemp, a graduate of the School of Slavonic Studies, King's College, University of London, has been elected by the Ministry of Education in Belgrade to hold a bursary in Belgrade University for two years for the purpose of research work.

The Ministry, which sends every year some ten undergraduates, men and women, to study in this country, where they are maintained out of surplus funds contributed by the British public during the War, has chosen this way of repaying a part of their debt. A student from this country is elected each year.

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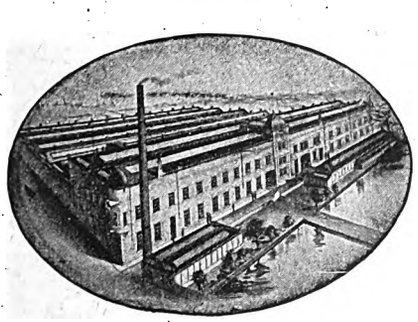
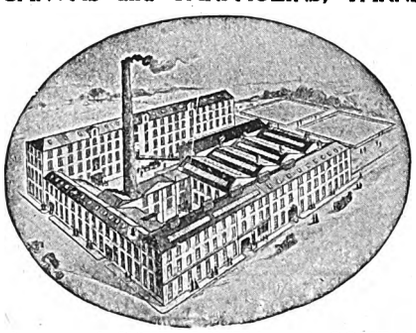
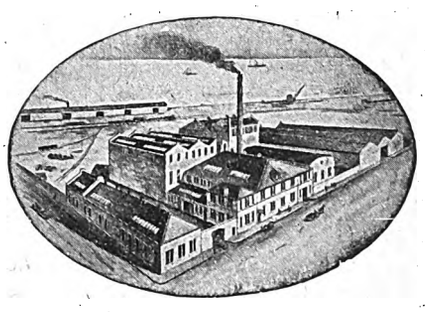

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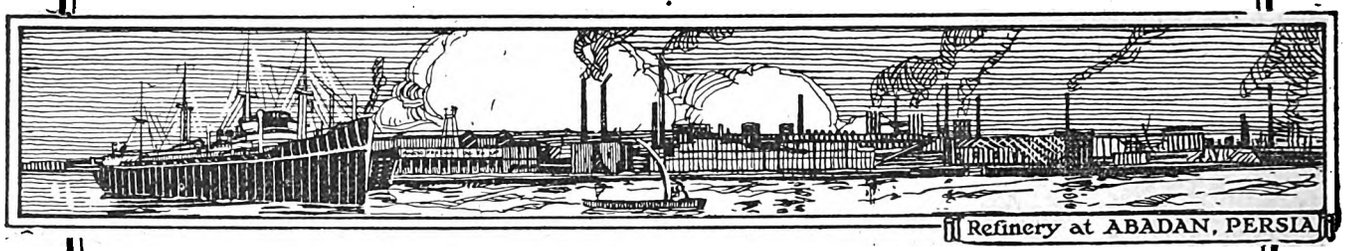

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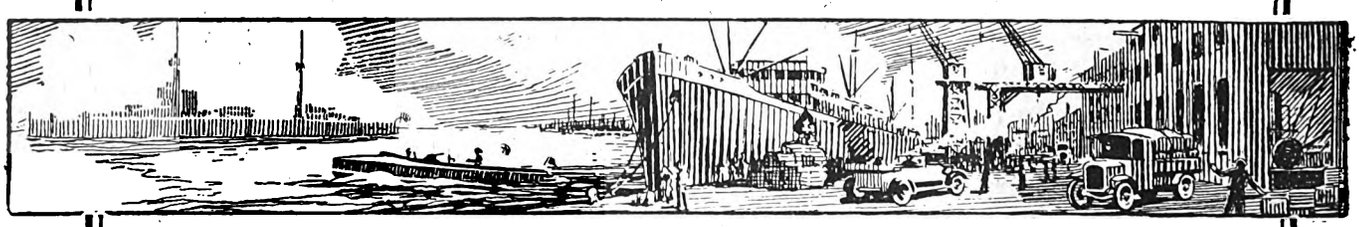

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

October 9, 1924 (New Style).
September 26, 1924 (Old Style).
Rabia I, 10, 1343 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tishri 11, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

M. and Mme. Venizelos left London on October 6 for Paris.

The Aga Khan has left the Ritz Hotel, London, for Brussels.

The Bulgarian Minister returned to London on October 1 from Geneva.

The Egyptian Minister in Paris left London on October 5 for the French capital.

The Bishop in Jerusalem and Mrs. MacInnes left England last week for Palestine.

Viscount Willingdon, who has been paying visits in Scotland, has now returned to London.

Sir Edward Boyle, the chairman of the Balkan Committee, is at present visiting Bulgaria.

M. Tsouderos, Greek Minister of Finance, left London on October 1 for Paris on his way to Athens.

Seyed Qasim Khan, the Afghan Chargé d'Affaires, is now convalescent, and has resumed his diplomatic duties.

Viscount Inchcape, accompanied by Viscountess Inchcape, went to Paris last week for the Suez Canal meeting.

Mme. Zaghloul, wife of the Egyptian Premier, with several Egyptian ladies, last Sunday attended the Mosque at Woking.

Prince and Princess Nicholas of Greece honoured Baron Ramsay with their company at luncheon last Thursday at Claridge's Restaurant.

Queen Olga of Greece, who is staying with Queen Alexandra at Sandringham, will probably return to London in the course of the next week.

Lord Islington, who returned to London recently from Constantinople, left last week with Lady Islington for Rushbrooke Hall, Bury St. Edmunds.

The Maharaja of Bikanir, who returned to London last week from Geneva, entertained the Aga Khan at dinner on October 1 at the Carlton Restaurant.

Prince and Princess Paul of Serbia have arrived at Claridge's Hotel after a stay of several weeks at the White Lodge, Richmond Park, as guests of the Duke and Duchess of York.

To-day, being the anniversary of King Fuad's accession to the throne, a reception will be held for all Egyptians and friends at 41, Berkeley Square, W.1, from 4 to 6 o'clock.

The Egyptian Minister in London and Mme. Aziz Izzet entertained at luncheon at the Legation on September 30 the Egyptian Premier and Madame Zaghloul, the Egyptian Minister of Communications, the Egyptian Minister in Paris, Princess Hassan, M. and Madame Lozi, Dr. Wahbi, and M. and Madame Mahmoud Sabet.

Lord Allenby, High Commissioner for Egypt, and Lady Allenby were the guests at luncheon of Aziz Izzet Pasha and Mme. Izzet at the Egyptian Legation on October 6.

Mr. K. N. Das Gupta, the Director of the Union of East and West, sailed from England for New York on October 1, to produce Oriental plays at the International Neighbours Festival to be held in Elizabeth, New Jersey, in November.

Colonel Sir William and Lady Campion and Sir Frederick and Lady Rowlatt left London last Thursday by the P. and O. express to join the steamship Maloja at Marseilles. Sir William and Lady McBeath, Sir Adrian Knox, and Lady McCormick also joined that vessel at Marseilles.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Sir Percy Lyham Loraine, Bart., of Kirkharle, of Styford Hall, Stocksfield-on-Tyne, His Majesty's Minister at the Court of Persia, and Louise, elder daughter of Major-General the Hon. Edward and Mrs. Stuart Wortley, of Highcliffe Castle, Hampshire.

Among the passengers who sailed last Friday by the P. and O. steamship Narkunda from London were General Sir Charles and the Hon. Lady Monro, and Commander and Mrs. Biron for Gibraltar; the Marquis of Bute for Tangier; and the Bishop of Lahore, Lady Hepper, and the Hon. Sir Grimwood and Lady Mears for Bombay.

Dr. Percy Dearmer is giving a course of ten public lectures, illustrated by lantern, on "A Summary of Ancient Art," in the Great Hall, King's College, Strand, on the ten Tuesdays of term commencing at 5.30 p.m. The first lecture, which was given last Tuesday, dealt with the "Origins of Art," followed by discourses on what is known of the art of ancient Greece, Rome, and Egypt, etc. Non-members of the college may obtain tickets for admission for 1s. per lecture, or 7s. 6d. for the course of ten.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Mr. T. F. Garvin, K.C., has been appointed a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Ceylon.

Rasmy Bey, Secretary at the Egyptian Legation in London, has been appointed Vice-Consul at Lyons, France.

Where to stay in the East

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1924.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS.

The conversations between Saad Pasha Zaghloul and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald have been terminated without resulting in the discovery of a basis for a formal agreement between Egypt and Great Britain. We should be sorry to think that the discussions between the two Prime Ministers, which have been characterised by the utmost friendliness, will prove to have been wholly in vain. For the moment, however, it would be idle to ignore the fact that Egypt and Great Britain are moving in two different orbits, which seem to have no point of contact. Egyptian understanding is wholly unable to grasp the sense of Imperial responsibility which is second nature to the Briton. To the Egyptian, for all practical purposes the political horizon is bounded entirely by Egypt and Great Britain. The latter has undertaken to grant Egypt's independence, and to the Egyptian mind the only question at issue is what is the fullest interpretation that can be given to the word independence. Evolution and transition are ruled out of the Egyptian political vocabulary. Independence means this, that, and the other; all that it implies or can be made to imply must be conceded at once, or rather belongs without further question, to Egypt. There is nothing inherently hostile to Great Britain in the interpretation itself; animosity is aroused by the refusal to admit the unchallengable nature of the Egyptian contention. Many responsible people in Egypt, we are convinced, have no other wish than to be loyal to Great Britain; the honesty of their intentions serves only to increase their intolerance of British caution, which they are inclined to denounce as a cloak for Machiavellian designs. If Egypt is independent, they argue, there must be nothing to differentiate her from any other independent Power. Circumstances point to the advisability or necessity of a close understanding with Great Britain; this, therefore, should be arranged just as any other treaty of alliance would be concluded between two independent States.

It is conceivable that in practice the Egyptian scheme would work out smoothly and satisfactorily. No one, however, outside Egypt will hesitate for a single moment to say that Great Britain is entirely justified in her unwillingness to leave such a vital matter to chance. The point at issue is not, as is supposed in Egypt, one that concerns Great Britain and Egypt alone. The peace of the world at large is involved, and the more the Egyptians fail to understand this aspect of the case, the more is Great Britain confirmed in her resolve that no unnecessary risks must be run. If the history of Egypt during the last six years had been different, there might have been more readiness on the part of the British Government to leave the future to take care of itself, trusting to the efficacy of cold reason. As things are, it can only see in the ease with which Egypt can lash itself into fury at the slightest provocation an obstacle to such an understanding as would satisfy two nations whose outlook on life and political mentality more closely approximate the one to the other's. If a nation so quick-witted as the Egyptian would allow itself to appreciate the British point of view, it would very quickly change its tactics. Disuse of a limb or faculty leads to atrophy. The same would happen in the case of the safeguards which British caution, supported by the common sense of all other countries, considers to be necessary in the early years of the new régime in Egypt. Troops which seem to-day to be needed as much for the preservation of order at home as a nucleus of defence against threats of aggression from without will soon be found to be useless for the latter purpose when they are shown to be superfluous for the former. "Immediate evacuation" makes a convenient slogan; but the cry loses its point when reiterated for a number of years, and becomes foolish as a policy, if it can be shown that other tactics would achieve the end in view in a shorter time.

The London conversations began, progressed, and ended in an entirely friendly atmosphere. Zaghloul Pasha had stipulated that he should not be bound down to the four "reserved subjects," but should be allowed to explore the whole range of Anglo-Egyptian relations. His wish was granted; but in his second meeting with the British Prime Minister he found that the reserved subjects represented no arbitrary selection, but went straight to the root of any understanding between Great Britain and Egypt. He came to England pledged to his people not to yield ground on any one of the four points, and he has kept his word. The conversations, therefore, in so far as they were intended to lead up to a formal agreement between the two countries, have been barren of result. What, then, is to be the next stage in the relations between Egypt and Great Britain? Will Zaghloul Pasha return to his own country, actuated by the same friendly spirit with which he has carried through the discussions with Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, and counsel his people to leave the unsettled problem exactly where he himself has left it? Two honest men, each zealous of his country's interests as he has interpreted them, have been unable to come to an agreement. Honour and statesmanship alike require that nothing should be done to prejudice the relations between the two countries, in order that time may be given a free hand to determine whether the voluntary modification of the views of the one or of the other is possible. Or will Zaghloul Pasha throw off the rôle of statesman, mount the demagogue's platform, and cry, "England rejects my demands; we must force her to yield." If he chooses the latter course, he must know that intemperance of language begets intemperance of action, and that violence will be countered by violence.

MEETING OF EAST AND WEST.

The concluding session of the Conference on Some Living Religions within the Empire was held last Friday at the Imperial Institute, Sir E. Denison Ross presiding. A valedictory address and benediction to the Conference was given by the Khalifad in Hindustani, which was translated by Maulvie Muhammad Din, of the Chicago Ahmadiye Mission. His Holiness concluded by observing: "Kipling is mistaken. The East is East, and the West is West, but the twain have met to-day."

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BRITAIN AND ARABIA.*

The End of the Arab Confederation?

(*From a Correspondent.*)

Somewhere on the seventy scorching miles between Taif, that dream-garden of the Hejaz, a city in which sophisticated and successful Sunni merchants cultivate their grapes and spend their long summer hours, and in whose palaces even goldfish are to be seen, and Mecca, the holiest and perhaps the most iniquitous city in all Islam, are gathered together the hosts of Sultan Hamid ed Din, chieftain of the redoubtable Abdul Aziz Ibn Saoud, head of the famous Wahhabi sect of Moslems Here for the moment they stand hesitant before plucking the noted prize which, unthoughtful of consequence, they snatched so long ago as 1803, and from which they were driven only by African arms under the Albanian, Mohammed Ali. Whether Ibn Saoud himself had directed this drive through Taruba and Taif on to the Prophet's birthplace is, however, not definitely known, and it is upon his decision—either to make peace or to advance, as did his predecessors at the beginning of the last century—that the whole Moslem world is waiting.

And not only the Moslem world. Britain and—in much smaller degree—France are watching with close and unforgetful eyes the succumbing of the Hejaz before the warriors of Nejd. Here it may be pointed out that, contrary to common estimation, France is not without interest in the fate of Arabia. Only last summer—and this is a fact which, I believe, escaped notice in all English newspapers—she attempted unsuccessfully to obtain a footing in the port of Sheikh Said in the Yemen, opposite French Somaliland. But Britain's interest is vital, because she will without doubt have to orientate her policy and combine more nearly than hitherto her Indian and Middle Eastern aims.

With the motives of this Wahhabi drive it is not my intention to deal here. The story of the rivalry between Riyadh, from which Ibn Saoud has ruled with terrifically strong hand, and Mecca, whence have gone forth Hussein's more interested and less swiftly obeyed edicts, is well known to students of the Arabian Peninsula. But the significance of this irruption from Nejd, of the complete collapse of the professed leaders of the Arab world—that at the moment is the all-important thing.

We have here, as I see it, nothing less than the thorough shattering of one of the greatest political conceptions of the century, almost as great as that of the as yet unachieved Balkan Federation—I mean the idea of an Arab Confederation—a Confederation, that is, which should comprise the Arabs not only of all Arabia, but of those places also from which at one time Arab glories most brightly irradiated—Syria, Palestine, and Iraq. Ibn Saoud, or one of his generals, has smashed one of the most fascinating dreams of Oriental history, and in the present confusion and disillusion heartburnings, not only among Arabs, but among European lovers of Arab civilisation, are abundant.

Now no idea fostered during and by the War has aroused more enthusiasm and more antagonism than the grand idea of an Arab Confederation. It is sufficient but to mention, on the one hand, Colonel T. E. Lawrence and Professor D. G. Hogarth—who, during the War, actively, the first on the field of battle and the second from behind the lines, assisted in the encouragement of the idea—and, on the other hand, Sir Arnold Wilson (High Commissioner of Iraq, 1918-1920) and Colonel Vickery (British Agent at Jeddah, 1917-1919), as sponsors and detractors respectively, to recollect under what distinguished auspices and, subsequently, with what misgivings, this conception of a united Arabia was launched and directed by the British. Despite European opposition—for, although help was given to Hussein of the Hejaz during the War by both France and Italy, it was promptly discontinued and, indeed, deplored, soon after the Armistice—Britain has persisted in her high endeavour to realise the age-long dream of a Confederation of the Arabs. And now it seems, from the fighting before Mecca between the Wahhabis and the adherents of the Hashimite family, that edifice, of which the Shereefian House was to be the main pillar, is falling down like a pack of cards. King Hussein's family is at Jeddah, and he himself, almost without a friend among neighbouring Arabs, is like to have difficulty in finding permanent refuge. It is impossible not to hear the chuckle of satisfaction on the part of the detractors of the policy of the Colonial Office, whose scheme, executed mainly by Mr. Winston Churchill and Colonel T. E. Lawrence, of bolstering up the Shereefian family in the Middle East (Hussein in the Hejaz, Faisal in Iraq, and Abdullah in Transjordan), would now appear to have collapsed, and to have collapsed owing to the very reason which opponents of the scheme have consistently preferred—the personal unworthiness of Hussein and the general unworthiness of the Hejazi Arabs.

But the Colonial Office need not be held wholly responsible for this nightmare which the hosts of Ibn Saoud have raised among certain Arabs. Its work in this connection was mainly war-work, and not until well after the Armistice was it found, in negotiation after negotiation, how hopeless it was to satisfy in the form of a treaty the promises made during the War to Hussein. The argument that the friendship of the Hejazi Arabs was essential to the safety of our communications *via* the Red Sea is unanswerable, and the fact that Sir Henry MacMahon made, in 1915, considerable promises to the Shereef of Mecca was not an error, but a necessity. Moreover, the idea of detaching the Arabs from the Turks originated much earlier than this, and in no less a brain than that of Lord Kitchener. This far-seeing Oriental diplomatist perceived that since in the years before the War Turkey was increasingly controlled by Germany, Arabia also would come under the Teu-

* It should be pointed out that this article, with all the contentions of which we do not agree, was written before the resignation of King Hussein and the definite position of the attacking Wahhabis were known.—Ed.

ASK FOR WHITE HORSE WHISKY

BY APPOINTMENT.

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tonic shadow, and it was, therefore, to counteract the influence of Germany in the Middle East that he formulated a scheme of detaching from the Ottoman Empire the Arabs of Arabia, and of building them up into a great Confederation.

Why Britain chose for the instrument of this Confederation the Hejazis and not the Wahhabis (whose dominions at this moment extend from the Persian Gulf almost to the Red Sea), has been fully told in that classic of travel-books, Mr. St. John Philby's "Heart of Arabia." Therein Mr. Philby states his view that it was largely the result of accident, and does not disguise his estimate on the respective values of Ibn Saoud and Hussein. But, it is interesting to note, this distinguished Arabist would appear of late to have modified his views on the possibilities of the situation, for he recently delivered himself of the opinion that, of the known leaders of the Arab world, none could more effectively lead an Arab Confederation that Emir Ali, King Hussein's eldest son, who but a week or so ago had to fall back before the Wahhabi forces attacking Taif.

For the moment, the Wahhabis hold all the trump cards, and although Ibn Saoud is credited with a wish to form an Arab Confederation, it is inconceivable that, after his experiences, he would allow anyone but himself to lead it. Yet this uxorious Puritan as head very few Moslems outside the Wahhabite sect would for an instant tolerate. Twice, in fact—once at the time of the Carmathian heresy and again in the Wahhabism of the early nineteenth century—has external Mohammedan opinion spurned the claim of the ascetics to lead Islam. It would seem, therefore, that Arabia will once more fall back to its ancient disunity with rival tribe vying with rival tribe and with no main political purpose ever in the ascendant. Ibn Saoud himself, who alone can control his fanatical but supremely energetic and now self-supporting bands of "Ikhwan," may succeed for a time in holding his vast possessions together, but his work will probably in the long run fail, just as that of his great predecessor in the eighteenth century failed. It is very possible, incidentally, that this advance through Taif to Mecca has not been countenanced by him, for although he held in supreme contempt the man who arrogated to himself (Hussein could plead, however, sometime British encouragement) the title of Khalif, he has for some months desired permanently to settle the boundaries of his dominions. But whether deliberate or not, this accession to Ibn Saoud of Hejazi territory will make his problem of ruling more, not less, difficult.

Now, having sketched the present position—the bubble of the Hejaz Kingdom pricked, the "Western" States of Iraq and of Transjordan consequently in the air, and the unity of Central and Western Arabia dependent on one man, Ibn Saoud—we may ask ourselves finally, "What are to be the future relations between Britain and Arabia?" Is this barren peninsula to lapse into her eighteenth-century gloom under the forbidding shadow of the Wahhabis, and fiercely hostile to all foreign influence, or will Britain now pursue the policy, long advocated by the India Government as against the Colonial Office, of getting on the friendliest terms with the mighty ruler of Nejd?

For the time being a policy of "Wait and See" is, of course, the only possible one. But should Ibn Saoud extend his sway to the Red Sea, it will become imperative to come to a definite understanding with him. That such an understanding can be made is not to be doubted. Not only in several meetings with Sir Percy Cox, as High Commissioner of Iraq, to discuss Iraq-Nejd boundaries, but also at the unsuccessful Koweit Conference last winter under Colonel Knox, did the leader of the Wahhabis show his sense of the need of political stability. And it is not improbable that his remembrances of the late Captain Shakespear, and of Mr. St. John Philby, and, more recently, of Major Holmes, to whom on behalf of the Eastern and General Syndicate he granted an oil concession, and of Captain R. E. Cheesman, who, thanks to the Sovereign's personal permission, roamed at will in Nejd in search of flora and fauna, will help to make an Anglo-Nejd arrangement a reality, and something more than the subsidy-fed agreement which enabled him to act in concert with the Allies during the War, but never actively to assist them.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

THE INTER-ALLIED REPARATIONS COMMISSION IN BULGARIA.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—I read with great interest the article "The Reparations Commission in Bulgaria" in the July 3 issue of The Near East. As the author of the said article has tried to present to the British public opinion the point of view of the Bulgarian Government regarding the reparations problem, I have the honour to request you to give space in your worthy magazine to the following explanations:—

The Inter-Allied Reparations Commission in Bulgaria began its work in Sofia, in March, 1921. It was received by the Bulgarian Government with all the attention and respect due to such a high institution, representing the three greatest European Powers. The Government and the people of Bulgaria had great hopes in connection with the Inter-Allied Reparations Commission. They expected that the Commission, being on the spot and living among the Bulgarian people, would be able to investigate and to appraise, better than any outsider, the real financial and economic situation of the country, which was aggravating, and would realise that the financial and economic burden imposed upon a diminished and impoverished Bulgaria was far beyond its economic and financial capacity; they trusted that the Commission, invested with the necessary authority by the Treaty of Peace and inspired by the principles of justice, would do everything in its power to reduce to a minimum the unbearable financial burden of Bulgaria and to postpone its payment, which would give Bulgaria a chance to consolidate its economic resources and to strengthen its disorganised finances so as to be able in the future to fulfil honourably its financial obligations.

Although the treaty had imposed very heavy and unjust political and economic burdens upon Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Government, desirous of giving proof of its firm decision to fulfil faithfully its treaty obligations to the extreme limits of its power, and to facilitate the work of the Commission, began the fulfilment of the treaty by making the restitutions under Articles 125-128 even before the arrival of the Commission in Sofia. The Bulgarian Government took all the necessary measures for the best possible establishment of the Commission in Sofia, and requested and received gladly its co-operation for the economic and financial restoration of Bulgaria. In April, 1921, the Bulgarian Government laid before the Commission a

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candid and complete statement of the economic and financial situation of the country before and after the Balkan wars, as well as after the world War, and requested the Commission's intervention, in order that at least a three years' moratorium might be granted to Bulgaria for the payment of the reparations debts. Meanwhile the Bulgarian Government passed all the necessary legislative measures for the carrying out of the work of the Commission, and continued to fulfil the Treaty stipulations in the most conscientious manner.

The large expenditures growing out of the faithful discharging of the external pre-War debts, the fulfilment of the Treaty, and the sustaining of the Inter-Allied Commission, brought about an aggravation of the financial condition of the country. The results of this aggravation were: great Budget deficits, a considerable increase of the internal floating debt, great inflation of the banknote circulation, and a rapid depreciation of the Bulgarian exchange, which is evidenced by the falling of the lev from 44 gold centimes on December 31, 1918, to 3.7 gold centimes on December 31, 1921. Nevertheless, the Bulgarian Government, far from resorting to the system of unlimited issue of paper money, and although greatly handicapped by the large expenditures above-mentioned, did everything in its power to stop the inflation.

Under these circumstances, the Government and the people of Bulgaria anticipated the application of Article 122 of the Treaty of Neuilly, which would have given Bulgaria the necessary moratorium, at least concerning the reparations debt. Therefore, the Bulgarian Government was greatly surprised when, in March, 1922, the Commission presented a draft convention for the settlement of Bulgaria's reparation debt which was more drastic than the Treaty of Neuilly, and which, if applied, would jeopardise the political and economic independence of Bulgaria. In spite of the threats of the Commission, the Bulgarian Government, unable to accept the proposed draft convention, insisted repeatedly upon its withdrawal, until it finally succeeded in reaching an understanding with the Commission, according to which the Bulgarian reparations question was to be settled by mutual agreement between the two parties at more favourable terms for Bulgaria. Nevertheless, at the time of the settlement of this question, the willingness of Bulgaria to live up to the Treaty obligations and the great material sacrifices already made for the fulfilment of the cruel Peace Treaty were not taken into consideration. In spite of all solicitations, the reparations debt, which greatly exceeds the financial and economic capacity of Bulgaria, was not reduced under Article 122 of the Treaty, but was only divided into two parts, as follows:—Part I., of 550,000,000 gold francs, payable in sixty years at 5 per cent. interest, and Part II., of 1,700,000,000 gold francs, the payment of which was postponed for thirty years.

Another heavy financial burden was imposed upon Bulgaria by charging her for "cost of military occupation of the country" a sum out of proportion with the real situation. The Bulgarian Government made all efforts to persuade the Commission that, on account of heavy financial obligations, Bulgaria was unable to stand additional charges, and that from a legal point of view she was not liable to assume such charges. The Bulgarian Government claimed that under the Armistice agreement of Salonika, and in view of Article 133 of the Treaty of Neuilly, Bulgaria was not to be considered as an occupied country, only certain strategical points having been occupied: moreover, Bulgaria had already paid 65,000,000 gold francs to meet the expenses of the Allied armies which have been stationed in or passed through Bulgaria. Finally, the Commission reduced its original claim of 130,000,000 gold francs to 25,000,000 gold francs, and Bulgaria agreed to pay the reduced amount in ten years at 5 per cent. interest.

There is no doubt that the Commission has rendered certain services in connection with the fulfilment of Articles 127 and 135 of the Treaty regarding restitutions and deliveries of cattle to Greece, Roumania, and Yugoslavia. The tactful and impartial attitude of the Commission was very helpful for the prompt and orderly carrying out of the deliveries. Also it could not be denied that the Commission lent its kind co-operation for the settlement of some other minor questions, and that it supported Bulgaria in the question of reintroducing obligatory military service. However, the services rendered by the Commission are greatly exaggerated, and still more exaggerated is the statement that the Commission is necessary in the future for Bulgaria.

As to the question of the limitation of public debt to the Bulgarian National Bank and of the inflation, the interests of the Bulgarian Government and those of the Commission were identical. This question was openly discussed in Bulgaria, and all prominent Bulgarian financiers were in favour of a restrictive legislation. The Bulgarian Government also, impressed by the example of the financial collapse of Austria and Germany, has been invariably in favour of a restriction of the inflation: this is evidenced by the fact that the banknote circulation in Bulgaria is at the present time 3,800,000,000 leva—namely, considerably below the legal limit of 5,600,000,000 leva, and this result has been achieved by Bulgaria without any assistance from the Commission. The Grain Corporation was in principle a beneficial enterprise, but, unfortunately, conditions were unfavourable, and, at the instance of the Commission, the Bulgarian Government abolished it. The balancing of the Budget was not due to the Commission. It was achieved thanks to the united efforts of the Government, of members of Parliament, and of many leaders of public opinion, who realised that the only alternative to a complete financial collapse was an increased production and a budgetary equilibrium. As to the question of obtaining financial help on the foreign money markets, the attitude of the Commission has been negative; so in 1921 the Commission declined to give its consent to a loan, although the contract was already signed by the Bulgarian Government, at fairly favourable terms, and the proceeds of the loan were destined to the construction of several railroads of great importance for the economic restoration of the country.

Therefore, as the deliveries of cattle have been already carried out, and the problems of reparations and occupation cost and other questions of a temporary character have been settled, no Bulgarian Government and no Bulgarian citizen would think to have the Commission continued in Bulgaria—not even with a considerably reduced staff. As the payment of reparations and occupation expenses has been guaranteed by the Customs revenues, under the supervision of the Bulgarian National Bank, there is no excuse for a further interference of the Commission with Bulgarian public finances. Moreover, Bulgaria should be relieved as soon as possible of the first mortgage on all her property and resources under Article 102 of the Treaty. The Commission has played its part in shaping the financial legislation of the country, and there is no longer any need for its "authority and respect."

It is true that hitherto the Bulgarian Govern-

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ment has made no official protest against the continued existence of the Commission. The Bulgarian Government wished to respect the susceptibilities of the Commission, and trusted that the latter would see the uselessness of its further stay in Bulgaria, and would withdraw of its own accord before having aroused public indignation. No Bulgarian Government would subscribe, even unofficially, to the Commission's "utility to the country."

In these circumstances, and in view of the fact that the task of the Commission is practically accomplished, the suggestion of a continuation of the existence of the Commission was received with perplexity and regret by public opinion in Bulgaria. The Commission ought to be withdrawn entirely, or its existence might be continued for a very short time until the questions coming under Articles 134, 139, and 141 of the Treaty are definitely settled; but in the latter case its staff ought to be reduced to a minimum of three members and one clerk, and with salaries low enough so that the total cost of the Commission might be reduced considerably below £8,000 a year. For the sake of comparison I may point out that the cost of the Bulgarian "Direction of Public Debts, of Debts guaranteed by the State, and of Pensions," with a staff of 210 officials, is about £8,000 a year. Moreover, it must be taken into consideration that the sums paid for the cost of the Reparations Commission and other similar Commissions are practically deducted from the salaries of Bulgarian officials and teachers who are obliged to live in greatest privation.

I am of the opinion that the remaining task of the Commission could easily be accomplished by one representative only, appointed among the members of the Commission's staff. The continued existence of the Commission in its present form, even with a reduced staff, would mean a superfluous burden to the overburdened Bulgarian Budget, and would be an insult to Bulgaria and the Bulgarian nation.—I am, etc.,

Nicolas Stoyanoff,
Director of the Public Debt of Bulgaria.

THE DEPARTURE OF ZAGHLOUL PASHA.

The conversations between Saad Pasha Zaghloul and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald came to an end last Friday, and on October 7 the Egyptian Prime Minister and Madame Zaghloul left London for Paris *en route* to Egypt. Zaghloul Pasha was accompanied by Wassef Ghali Bey, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mustapha Nahass Bey, Minister for Communications, and by the numerous suite that had come with him to London. Aziz Pasha Izzet, Egyptian Minister to the Court of St. James's, travelled by the same train to Paris, where he will stay until Zaghloul Pasha leaves for Marseilles. At Victoria Station the Egyptian Prime Minister was bidden farewell by a large gathering of his compatriots, who raised cheers for Zaghloul Pasha and Madame Zaghloul and for Egypt and King Fuad, as well as the cry, "Egypt and the Sudan for the Egyptians." Addressing them from the train, Zaghloul Pasha stated that no harm had been done by the negotiations: he had surrendered nothing, and was now returning to Egypt to consult as to what was to be done next. Mr. W. H. M. Selby, private secretary to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, represented Mr. Ramsay MacDonald at the station, and bade farewell to Zaghloul Pasha on behalf of the Prime Minister.

THE B.E.F. IN SALONIKA.

Floral tributes in remembrance of the dead heroes of the British Expeditionary Force to Salonika were laid on the Cenotaph last Sunday by General Sir George Milne, who commanded the Salonika Forces. The first wreath, which had been made by disabled ex-soldiers in the workshops of the British Legion, consisted of artificial Flanders poppies, and it bore the inscription upon a streamer of silk, "1914—1918 Salonika." The other wreath, made of laurel, was a tribute "To the valorous British defenders of freedom, who fought and died on the Salonica front, in grateful remembrance from the Greek people and the Greek army." Accompanying General Sir George Milne were the French Naval Attaché, the Greek Minister, the Serbian Consul-General, Major-General J. Duncan, Colonel-Commandant T. E. Kelly, R.A., Colonel W. J. Frogley, and the Rev. W. Stevenson Jaffray (principal chaplain to the Salonika Army).

THE PALESTINE ORIENTAL SOCIETY.

No. 4, Vol. IV., of the *Journal* of the Palestine Oriental Society contains two very interesting articles entitled, "Notes on the Jewish Graffiti of Bath-Phage," by E. L. Sukenik, and "Rules of Hospitality," by Omar Salih El-Barghuthi. This journal is performing, under the authoritative editorship of the Rev. Dr. Herbert Danby, a quite invaluable work in setting down, before they are completely decayed, the beliefs and customs prevalent in Palestine in the pre-British era.

M. Kalfoff, the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, arrived in Paris from Geneva on October 1.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Rubber Position.

Reference is called for to the exceedingly interesting character of the present position of the rubber market. For a long time it certainly looked as if the restriction scheme was not going to justify the hopes that had been based upon it. But the reduction of the output on August 1 by a further 5 per cent. seems to have been the turning point. For a few weeks there was little change, and then rubber began to rise steadily, and yesterday stood at 1s. 3¼d. per lb. The cause of this change is the great improvement in the statistical position. Stocks in London are now over 10,000 tons below the figures at this time last year, while the supply in America, which, of course, is a vital factor in the situation, is now no more than will suffice for a few weeks. If the output remained on the present scale, there is no doubt that rubber would continue to rise, but there is every prospect of a further reduction in output. Rubber, it must be pointed out, has to average 1s. 3d. in the quarter, otherwise there is a 5 per cent. reduction. To average 1s. 3d. in the present quarter, it will be necessary for rubber to average 1s. 5d. for the remaining weeks, which is very unlikely, and if there is a reduction to 50 per cent. it is very evident that we can look forward to a sharp rise in rubber. I should not be in the least surprised to see it go to 1s. 7d. or 1s. 8d., or even considerably higher, for all the indications point to the output for next year being below what may be required.

Markets for Motors.

I wish to draw the attention of British motor manufacturers to the article in this issue on markets for motors in the Near East. So far, as the writer points out, these outlets have been largely neglected, although there is a growing trade in motors throughout the Near East, and the result is that foreign manufacturers have benefited from our lack of enterprise. In many parts of the Near East the nature of the terrain is such, it is true, as to restrict motor traffic, but there is quite a wide scope for motoring, as the inhabitants are discovering, even in the Balkans, while in countries like Egypt the use of the motor is rapidly developing. In the Sudan, too, the motor is widely used, and it goes without saying that only the question of cost stands in the way of a great extension of motoring. Then in the Middle East, as the writer of the article suggests, the successful motor services now being run have brought home to the inhabitants the utility of the motor in a way which nothing else could have done, and it is to be expected that the result will be a greatly increased demand for motors. It is the business of British manufacturers to see that they obtain an adequate share of the trade, and it is in the belief that it is only necessary to bring the potentialities of the Near East markets before them that I draw attention to them here.

Egypt's Obligations.

An unfortunate position has arisen in regard to the payment of interest on the Ottoman Loans of 1891 and 1894, which are secured on the Egyptian Tribute. As I have already had occasion to point out, Egypt has taken up the attitude that she is no longer liable in respect of these loans, and she has now suspended payment of the funds required for the service of the loans. The result is that the bonds of the 1891 loan drawn for redemption on October 10 and those of the later loan drawn for redemption on October 15 cannot be paid. There are, however, funds in hand to meet portions of the coupons due, and the announcement is made that £1 5s. per cent. will be paid by Messrs. Glyn, Mills and Co. in respect of the 1891 loan and 15s. 10d. per cent. by Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons in respect of the 1894 loan. The Egyptian Government, it must be pointed out, have offered to refer the question of their position in regard to the loans to the Hague Tribunal, and there the matter stands at present.

The B.I.F.

It now appears certain that the British Industries Fair will be held, as usual, next year at the White City, London, and at Birmingham. This year, it will be recalled, the Fair was held later than usual, in order that it might coincide with the British Empire Exhibition, but I do not think that any great benefit was derived from that course, for fewer foreigners visited the Exhibition than were expected to do so, at any rate, at the commencement, and it is now proposed to revert to the usual dates in February. In view of the improved political situation as a result of the recent conferences, it is possible to look forward to the development of trade in the next few months with a considerable amount of optimism, and if nothing happens in the meantime to alter the situation, the Fair promises to take place at a time when commerce generally will be decidedly on the upgrade, and the result should be that excellent business will be done at the Fair.

A New Feature.

I wish to draw attention to a new feature in this part of the paper—chess notes. This feature will be found this week on page 382.

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CHESS.

(BY "CARO-KANN.")

It is many months since I was last responsible for these notes, and in the interval much chess history has been made. But the tournaments that have been held abroad and at home have been dealt with fully at the time, and I do not propose to refer to them here with the exception of the recent British Championship at Southport. The retirement of Mr. H. E. Atkins before the War after an unprecedented record of successes in the Championship was greatly regretted by the chess community, and it has been hoped that he would ultimately make another appearance in the arena. Now he has done so, and has shown that his skill is unimpaired, and his victory in the circumstances can only be regarded as one of the greatest performances ever put up in the Championship.

We are now, of course, on the threshold of the new season. October is a month of peculiar delight to chess players since it signifies the rapid approach of the tournaments and league matches. The first event at the City of London Chess Club is a Lightning Tournament, which is to take place on October 16. The club is holding its usual tournaments, entries for which have to be made by October 17.

The following game was played in the summer tournament of the Midland Bank Chess Club :— White, Mr. C. M. Payne; Black, Mr. R. K. Page. 1, P—K4, P—K4; 2, Kt—KB3, Kt—QB3; 3, B—B4, B—B4; 4, P—QKt4, B x P; 5, P—B3, B—B (a); 6, P—Q4, P—Q3; 7, O—O, Q—B3 (b); 8, B—Kt5, Q—Kt3; 9, P x P, B—Kt5 (c); 10, QKt—Q2, P x P; 11, Q—Kt3, P—Kt3 (d); 12, Q—R4, B—Q2; 13, KR—Q, P—B3; 14, B—Kt5 (e), KKt—K2; 15 Kt—B4, R—Q; 16, R—Q2 Q—B2; 16, QR—Q, Q—K3 (f); 18, R—Q6 (g), Q—Kt5; 19, P—KR3, Q—R4; 20, R x B, R x R; 21, B x Kt, Kt x B; 22, Q x Kt, Q—B2; 23, KKt x P, P x Kt; 24, Q—R8 (ch), resigns.

(a) This is unusual and too defensive. B—R4 and B—B4 are the usual continuations.

(b) It is difficult to find a good move in this cramped position. P x P, followed by B—K2 would seem to be as good a line as any.

(c) If Kt x P, 10, Kt x Kt.

(d) Simply inviting an attack. R—Kt should have been played.

(e) The attack is now becoming overwhelming.

(f) There was nothing else. It is interesting to note that all this time it has been impossible safely to capture the Bishop.

(g) Very pretty and quite decisive.

BULGARIAN FINANCES.

The receipts of the Bulgarian Treasury during August, 1924, amounted to the sum of 482,577,250 levas (£804,295), as against 820,204,882 levas (£800,342) in July last, and 439,011,381 (£731,685) in August, 1923.

The receipts for the first five months (April 1-August 31) of the financial year 1924-1925 were : 2,363,896,105 levas (£3,941,000), giving a monthly average of 473,000,000 levas (£788,000). Thus the last months of the financial year have been marked with a tendency towards an increase of the receipts. This improvement is expected to be maintained through the autumn and the winter, it having been noticed that taxpayers are generally in a better position to discharge their liabilities in those seasons.

The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due October 15 on Egyptian preference bonds. The necessary lists can be procured on application at the dividend pay office.

INDIAN APPOINTMENTS.

The following appointments by the Secretary of State for India are announced : General Sir Havelock Hudson, K.C.B., K.C.I.E., Indian Army (retired), to be a member of the Council of India in the place vacated by the resignation on the expiry of his term of office of General E. G. Barrow, G.C.B., G.C.S.I.

Sir Reginald Arthur Mant, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Indian Civil Service, to be a member of Council in succession to Sir J. B. Brunyate, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., whose tenure of office has expired.

Mr. Stuart Kelson Brown to be joint secretary in the Military Department of the India Office in succession to Mr. Samuel Findlater Stewart, C.S.I., C.I.E.

Lord Olivier has appointed Mr. Richard Henry Archibald Carter to be his private secretary, vice Mr. S. K. Brown (promoted), and Mr. Wilfrid Johnston, M.C., to be his assistant private secretary, vice Mr. John Gilbert Laithwaite (promoted).

THE RIF.

A meeting of the Near and Middle East Association will be held on October 15, at 8.30 p.m., at 55, Harrington Gardens, South Kensington, by kind permission of Mrs. Bruce Dick. The subject is to be "The Problem of the Rif," on which a paper written by Captain R. Gordon Canning and a Note by the Rt. Hon. Ameer Ali will be read by Mr. J. A. Bevan. Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen will preside.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

King Alexander of Yugoslavia returned last week to Belgrade after his provincial tour.

Captain Bernard Eckstein has been appointed a director of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Ltd.

It is reported that a Yugoslav Transatlantic steamship line has been formed with a capital of £600,000.

It is stated from Athens that the Greek Government has asked for a British naval mission to be sent to Athens.

A slight earthquake shock was felt at Constantinople and in the islands in the Sea of Marmora on September 29.

The traffic receipts of the South India Railway Company for the week ended August 30 amounted to Rs. 8,23,332, making the total from April 1 Rs. 2,06,37,945.

Mr. C. H. Bentinck, who was Chargé d'Affaires in Athens for eighteen months during the interruption of relations after Mr. Lindley's departure, left there on September 29 for his new post in Munich.

The Turkish Minister of Finance and the chief of the Constantinople Bourse, who have been spending several days in London in connection with the Imperial Ottoman Bank, left London on October 3 for Paris.

The *Tanin* of Constantinople publishes an account of the growth of brigandage in the *vilayet* of Adana and in Eastern Anatolia. It is said that murders, robberies, and kidnappings are of common occurrence, and that the Mayor of Bitlis has been assassinated.

According to the *Pioneer's* correspondent at Meshed, Persian troops successfully ambushed Turcoman raiders near the Nardin Pass, on the Teheran road, killing seventy of them. Telegraphic communication between Meshed and the capital is again open, after a fortnight's interruption.

Mr. Linfield and Mr. Calder, members of the East African Parliamentary Commission, arrived last week at Zanzibar. They were received by a delegation from the Chamber of Commerce and by Arab and Indian deputations. All parties expressed the opinion that Zanzibar did not wish to join the suggested East African Customs Federation.

Reuter's Constantinople correspondent reports that the Judicial Sub-Committee of the Commission dealing with the exchange of populations has decided by a vote of two to one to interpret the word "established" applied to Greeks in Constantinople as including all traders, merchants, and workmen who are able to prove residence in Constantinople previous to 1918. This decision affects over 60,000 Greeks in Constantinople. Tewfik Rushdi Pasha, the Chief Turkish Delegate, has resigned, and the work of the Commission is at a standstill pending the appointment of a successor.

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Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

Near East Markets for Motors.

Next week we shall have an opportunity of inspecting the latest products of the ingenuity of British motor manufacturers, and the occasion renders extremely apposite some reference to the very important question of markets for motors. The home market, of course, is steadily growing, and there is still immense scope for development even though there is no possibility that the ratio of motors to the population will ever even faintly approximate to the American figure, for which, it may be added, we have cause for profound satisfaction, for with the roads crowded as they are at the present time it is obvious that motoring on the American scale would mean that the roads would be almost impassable. But even if the home market at the moment was large enough to satisfy the desires of British manufacturers—and it is not—it would be a most futile and absurd policy to concentrate on its requirements to the exclusion of adequate attention to foreign markets. In this critical period for British commerce the value of an industry must mainly be measured by the part it plays in the export returns, for we cannot exist by, so to speak, taking in each others' washing, and we must export to an ever-increasing extent if the population of this country is to be supported. There is no question that despite the difficulties with which manufacturers have to contend, the motor industry ought to play a very important part in the export market, far more so than is now the case, and if this is to be so, it is very evident that much more energy and initiative must be put into the business of pushing sales abroad. There must be an end, for one thing, of the policy of only catering for foreign trade if the markets are inviting, in other words, if business can be obtained more or less easily. There must, in short, be an abandonment of the old methods, and all markets must be catered for, and where the position is most difficult, there the greatest efforts must be made to meet local requirements. It is only thus that in this new era, when all business that can be obtained is needed, that British motor manufacturers will be able to hold their own abroad in the face of the keen competition from our rivals—a competition which, it must be emphasised, is becoming more pronounced each year.

I have been led to make these remarks by the evidence of the comparative neglect of the Near East markets that is forthcoming in the latest reports from those regions. For various reasons British manufacturers as a whole—there are, of course, many notable exceptions—have never shown any outstanding keenness to enter these particular markets, and what is true of our manufacturers in general is emphatically so in regard to the motor industry, and the result is that, while the use of the motor is developing apace throughout the Near East, it is in the main the foreign motor and not the British product that is being used. Some manufacturers take the extreme view that it is practically impossible to compete in the Near East markets. It would be unless special care were taken to meet the needs of the various markets. There is a fair demand for luxury cars, and here, of course, the pre-eminent quality of British products is a sure guarantee that they will hold their own, but we have yet to introduce to these markets a light car at a price at which it will be a serious competitor to a well-known foreign make. As showing the potentialities of the market, it is noteworthy that a foreign firm has had under consideration the establishment of branch factories in the Near East. That fact ought to spur British manufacturers on to greater enterprise in that region, for if one of their most redoubtable competitors abroad is so impressed with the prospects there must surely be room for them too. It is, as I have pointed out, mainly a question of initiative. No one questions the British capacity for turning out good cars of any grade. Each succeeding Motor Show, with the ever-increasing variety of models, is the best proof on that score. All that is necessary is for our manufacturers to determine what is the best type of car for all-round purposes in the Near East, to concentrate on its production, and to see that it is put on the market at a competitive price. Then, provided there is adequate attention to the selling side of the business in the Near East, and that presupposes naturally considerable and continuous publicity, there will be every ground for confidence that this country will obtain an adequate share of the trade that is going.

I have no space here to deal in detail with all the Near East markets for motor-cars, but to illustrate my remarks I propose to give the gist of the comments in recent British official reports on two important outlets—Roumania and Greece. As regards the former country, while it is pointed out that in nearly every branch of trade there are openings for British goods, it is stated that there has as yet been no determined attempt to compete in the motor-car trade. "Such is the reputation of British cars," it is added, "that it would seem possible for them to command slightly higher prices than foreign-made cars of similar type. If a large maker, or possibly two or three makers, in conjunction, could set up their own representative in Roumania under such terms as would allow the latter to open a large repair shop, and, above all, if he were possessed of sufficient capital to enable

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him to employ two or three reliable mechanics well acquainted with the makes handled by their employer, there is every reason to expect that cars could be sold." The writer adds that there are one or two elementary conditions that they would have to fulfil. A good clearance would be advisable, on account of the roads, while the springing should be specially good for the same reason, and the representative should handle some type of shock absorber along with the cars. Other essentials include fairly fool-proof lighting and starting systems, and, finally, says the writer, "a strongly built British-made car would probably sell even in competition with larger power cars from Italy and Austria." It is expected that there will be a considerable development in the demand for motors in Greece as soon as the construction and maintenance of roads has been taken in hand. American machines have a practical monopoly of the market, the writer of the report points out, and he adds: "Cheapness is, of course, the main factor in the situation, and if British makers can produce cars at anything like American prices, there is no reason why they should not find buyers, provided, of course, that they satisfy the peculiar requirements of the country--viz., high clearance and good springing, on account of the character of the roads, which are on a par with the worst roads in non-European countries, as well as efficient cooling and braking systems." These two countries are in no wise peculiar, and what applies to them applies in broad detail to the whole of the vast region included in the Near East. A little energy, a little initiative, and British manufacturers may look forward to reaping a rich harvest. In the Middle East the whole position has been vitally altered by the successful motor services that are now being run, and it is obvious that one effect of these services will be greatly to develop a market for motors, for those who can afford to have them will want to use the routes themselves. Here, again, there is a great opportunity.

AFFORESTATION IN PALESTINE.

It is estimated that between 1920 and 1924 nearly three million trees have been planted in Palestine. This figure conveys some idea of the extent, not generally appreciated, to which the havoc wrought during the war in the forests of Palestine is being repaired (says the *Commercial Bulletin* of Palestine). The Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, drawing its supplies from Government nurseries, has been able to render valuable aid with this afforestation, and much commendable work has been done by the Palestine Zionist Executive and the Supreme Moslem Council. Planting operations have been carried out by villagers and other private persons, and by municipalities, hospitals, and institutions, which, in most cases, obtained their stocks free of charge or at cost price from Government nurseries. The Government Forest Service planted 1,048,650 timber, ornamental, and shade trees, and 241,412 fruit trees. It sold and distributed 269,102 timber trees and propagated 111,168 olive trees. The Palestine Zionist Executive planted 666,200 timber trees and 6,733 fruit trees, and the Supreme Moslem Council 3,200 timber trees and 11,500 eucalyptus trees; 155,050 fruit trees were planted by private persons. Over the same period—viz., 1920-1924--close on a million vines were planted, of which 700,000 came from Government nurseries. The benefits of afforestation have been advertised, and this work by villagers and others has been given frequent encouragement in the columns of the local Press.

PALESTINE CROP PROSPECTS.

The Director of Agriculture and Forests in Palestine, in a report for the month of August, states:

Tobacco picking is nearing completion throughout the country. The weight of leaf in the northern districts is slightly above, and in the south somewhat below, normal. There is, however, a marked improvement in quality, and in the demand for seed of the finer and better flavoured types, such as the "Sada," against which an earlier prejudice existed on account of the small size of the plant. A clearly indicated preference on the part of the manufacturers for the best obtainable qualities is having a marked effect both on the choice of varieties and on handling and curing methods.

An exceptionally heavy olive crop is promised. The weight of fruit in parts of northern Galilee has been such as to necessitate the use of supports for the branches to prevent their being broken down. Almonds, on the other hand, are a very poor crop. Picking is over and shelling is being completed. The vintage is also disappointing, and the yield considerably below average. Melons are realising poor prices as compared with last year, and the crop is light. Orange prospects are satisfactory, and a growing interest in the cultivation of bananas is exhibited. The pomegranate crop in Galilee is excellent.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

The Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of 75 iron safes in accordance with specification. Alternative quotations are desired, however, for 100 safes. Tenders must be submitted on the proper form, and will be received in Cairo up to noon on October 25 It is stipulated in the conditions of contract that the tenderer must be a person resident in Cairo or must have a representative in Cairo.

Semi-Diesel Engines, etc.—The Director-General, State Domains Administration (Commercial Service), Savoy House, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of four semi-Diesel engines and four centrifugal pumps. November 1.

Paint.—The Main Roads and Bridges Department of the Egyptian Ministry of Communications invites tenders for the supply of 45 metric tons of paint for the Cairo bridges. —November 10.

Diesel Motor.—The Egyptian Government invite tenders for the supply of a Diesel or Semi-Diesel motor of 30 h.p.—November 12.

Leather.—The Egyptian Ministry of Education invite tenders for the supply of leather required for the model workshops and trades schools of the Ministry. November 15.

Soap. — The Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 110 tons of hard soap to Egyptian Army Supply Stores, Tura. December 2.

Railway Sleepers.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of wooden railway sleepers. December 16.

Turkey.

Galvanometers.—The Turkish Posts and Telegraphs Administration invite tenders for the supply of thirty galvanometers.—November 1.

Yugoslavia.

X-Ray Apparatus—A firm of dealers in scientific instruments and electro-medical apparatus in Novi Sad are desirous of receiving catalogues and prices of X-ray apparatus from British manufacturers. (D.O.T.)

The directors of Harrisons and Crosfield have resolved to recommend the payment of a final dividend of 15 per cent., less tax, on the deferred ordinary shares in respect of the year ended June 30 last, making 25 per cent.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

Coffee.—A firm tone has prevailed. Costa Rica at 165s. is 1s. up, East Indian is unchanged at 140s., Kenya is the same at 136s., while Santos is 2s. up at 106s.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair demand. Tate's cubes are 44s. 3d., London granulated is 38s. 10½d., while Lyle's granulated is 39s. 1½d. Foreign descriptions have been dull. West Indian crystallised is unchanged at 35s. 6d., White Java at 35s. 10½d. is 6d. lower, while Czech granulated has been done at 21s. for November. Futures are easy: November 20s. 4½d., December 20s., March 19s. 10½d., May 20s.

Maize.—A good demand has continued for this commodity, and prices are again higher. La Plata has been done at 45s. 9d. spot; while 46s. 6d. is asked for November-December, and 47s. for January.

Currants.—Business has been much brisker, with Vostizzas in specially good request. Other varieties of Greeks have also been moving off fairly well, but prices have not yet settled down, and until the market in Greece is steadier business is bound to be restricted to some extent.

Sultanas.—A steady tone has prevailed, and prices are well maintained, though the quality of the Smyrna fruit that has so far appeared is somewhat below the average. There is still a strong demand for the Continent.

Figs.—Good business has been done. The fruit is of excellent quality, and the demand is evidently on the upgrade, particularly for Naturals.

Plums.—This commodity has continued to be in steady request. Stocks are below last year's figures, and as the demand is on the upgrade it follows that higher prices are to be expected.

Oilcakes.—The market has been quite firm. Linseed cake is unchanged at 275s., cottonseed cake is the same at 185s., while coconut cake is unaltered at 220s.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been variable, Indian being 1½d. down at 22s. 10½d., while La Plata is 5½d. up at 21s. 10½d. Rapeseed has been firm. Toria is 6d. up at 24s., while real bold Ferozepore is 22s. 10½d. Cottonseed has been variable. Indian is 11s. 1½d., Egyptian black is 13s. 7½d., while Sakellaridis is 12s. 10½d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed oil has been firm, closing 1s. up at 44s. 6d. Rape oil has been firm, with crude 1s. up at 49s. 6d., and technical refined 1s. up at 52s. 6d. Cotton oil has been steady. Refined common edible is 49s., Bombay crude is 41s., Egyptian crude is 43s., technical is 45s., while deodorised is 51s.

Cyprus Oil Trust.—Trinidad.—Production for August and September from the company's well, 126 tons. Roumania.—A representative of the board will be leaving for the company's properties in the Tazlau Valley at an early date.

Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co. announce, with regard to the Royal Roumanian Government 4½ per Cent. Loan of 1913, that coupons due October 1 from stamped bonds, the numbers of which appear on what is known on the Stock Exchange as the Schröder list, and also coupons from bonds stamped by the Roumanian Commissions, may now be presented at 145, Leadenhall Street, E.C.3. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination. Bonds of the 4½ per Cent. Loan of 1913 appearing on the Schröder list and not yet stamped must be deposited with Messrs. J. H. Schröder and Co. as soon as possible.

CROP CONDITIONS IN IRAQ.

Good Yields of Dates.

The following particulars are taken from the *Agricultural Bulletin* of Iraq for the period August 16-September 15:—

During the calendar month of August, 1924, the mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures recorded at Hinaidi (near Baghdad) were 109.4° F. and 76.7° F., as compared with an average of 109.7° F. and 79.1° F. for the previous thirty-six years at Baghdad. The month was rainless. The hot dry northerly wind which prevailed at the beginning of August dropped towards the middle of the month, and a period of calm was experienced. This, though oppressive, had a beneficial effect on crops generally. Dates, which were beginning to shrivel and fall in serious quantities in exposed situation, were gently ripened. Cotton, which had felt the effects of the wind very badly, recovered condition, and was able to set bolls for the later pickings. The water demand of all crops became less.

There has been a good deal of fluctuation in the price of wheat and barley during the period under report. This is partly due to speculation in these commodities, but prices on the whole have remained on the up-grade. Prices at the close of August varied from Rs. 160 to Rs. 220 for wheat and from Rs. 85 to Rs. 105 for barley, the variations being due to quality and locality.

The water supply in all Euphrates canals remained good. Complaints have been received, however, of shortage in all Dialah canals. This river has fallen to an unprecedentedly low level. The situation is aggravated by the fact that, owing to a bad cereal harvest, larger areas than normal of late rice were sown. Naturally these areas have suffered from shortage of water. Pump owners on the Tigris have had difficulty in watering crops due to the very low level of the river. The unusually low water-level is also causing anxiety to rice cultivators in the Amarah Muqata'as, where the early sown crops have ripened prematurely. The later sowings appear to be in better condition, however.

The date packing season commenced during the last week in August. Hallawis were the first to be harvested, and the crop is picking off well, being estimated at 25 per cent. above the average. Khadrawi pickings commenced later, and are considered to be slightly below an average crop.

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Sayers are not yet being cut in quantity, but should give an average crop. The opening prices were as follows (per kara of 3 tons) :—Hallawi, Rs. 400; Khadrawi, Rs. 320; Sayer, Rs. 230.

Pickings of cotton continued general throughout the period under report. Up to the end of August approximately 300 tons had been delivered to the ginnery, as compared with 220 tons during the corresponding period last year. The hot winds of July and August prevented flower setting, but most crops now show a good supply of flowers and young bolls.

The depredations of boll-worm have become more marked. Observations at the Experimental Farm, Rustam, showed that the fourth generation of this pest hatched out between July 21 and 28, leading to an increase in boll-worm population from 3 per 100 hills to 16 per 100 hills. At the same time the adverse weather conditions that then prevailed caused a large mortality to the worms, amounting in the particular experiment to 30 per cent. Crops that are in good healthy condition and setting plenty of bolls may be expected therefore to keep ahead of the pest, whereas those which, from any cause, are backward in setting their new bolls will suffer badly. In the main varietal test of cotton at the Central Experimental Station the different varieties had yielded by the end of August from 959 lbs. per acre up to 1,448 lbs. per acre.

A certain amount of grazing for stock has been provided over the harvested early rice fields. This was very badly needed. In many tracts where such grazing is not available flocks and herds have been sent far afield in search of pasture. The high price of grain is reflected in the poorer condition of live stock.

Cultivators, having finished their late sowings of maize, are preparing for next year's winter cereals. Where water is available it is being used to facilitate the ploughing up of old fallows.

The July-August, 1924, exports of wheat from Iraq were 947 tons and of barley 6,820 tons—total 7,767 tons, as compared with 38,456 tons exported during the same period last year. The August exports of dates from Iraq were 1,573 tons, valued at Rs. 2,52,675, as compared with 152 tons, valued at Rs. 16,391, for the corresponding season last year. The July-August, 1924, exports of wool from Iraq were 10,238 tons, as compared with 1,856 tons exported during the same season last year.

DRIED FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, in their report dated October 1, state :—

Currants.—The market has failed to shake off the feeling of uncertainty existing in the minds of buyers as to whether the Greek Government would be able to impose the tax and make it operative, but latest reports ought to give assurance on this. The tax of 600 drachmæ per 1,000 Venetian pounds, equivalent to about 5s. per cwt., is being collected in Greece on all shipments, and this fact alone should remove any doubts that remain. It is also stated that the Government will shortly be purchasing 20,000 tons.

The Darino, with 270 tons, inaugurated the new season, the bulk of her cargo being disposed of before arrival. Pyrgos, cleaned, 46s. 6d. to 48s.; Amalias, cleaned, 48s.; Patras, cleaned, 50s. to 52s.; Gulf, 54s. to 58s. Further supplies per Esneh, Phrygia and Sitra, about 2,100 tons, came to hand, comprising a better selection. More interest was shown, and Zante, Gulf, and Vostizza, of attractive colour, condition, and of good quality, were readily saleable. Zante, 50s.; Smalls, 51s. to 53s.; Gulf, 54s. to 56s.; Vostizza, 60s. to 63s.; Vostizza, S/D, 65s. to 70s.; Vostizza, small, up to 69s. Quotations: Pyrgos, 46s. 6d.; Pyrgos, cleaned, 48s.; Amalias, cleaned, 48s. to 50s.; Patras, 52s. to 54s.; Zante, 50s. to 52s.; Gulf, 52s. to 56s.; Vostizza, 60s. to 70s.

Australian Fruit.—The Somerset arrived, but both quality and condition show a great falling off on previous arrivals. Sales were 40s. to 45s. for inferior grades, up to 50s. for best lots.

Sultanas.—We opened the season with the Gerano cargo, consisting of 23,000 boxes, the quality being most disappointing, with an almost entire absence of fine fruit. Sales were: Ordinary, 54s.; medium to good, 58s. to 65s.; and a few fine at 75s. to 85s. The Esneh and Bavarian brought further supplies, but, unfortunately, no improvement in the quality is noticeable. Cretans, on the other hand, judged by overland samples, are distinctly attractive, and should benefit accordingly. Despite strong advices from Smyrna of the upward tendency of the market, owing to Continental purchases, the demand shows no improvement, and business has continued on a most disappointing scale, buyers adopting a very cautious policy. Australians keep selling steadily. Stocks were almost cleared previous to the arrival of the Somerset with 7,000 cases. Capes.—Some inquiry developed for bleached qualities, 52s. to 60s. Afghans.—Arrivals of the Red variety are unattractive and fail to find buyers, 35s. to 37s.

Figs.—The arrivals per Gerano, Esneh, and Bavarian met a ready sale, which is not surprising, as the quality and condition are excellent. Sales :—Skeleton cases, large boxes, 80s. to 95s.; small boxes, 90s. to 100s.; Locoums, 115s. to 120s. Bags Naturals.—A large quantity of genuine were disposed of afloat, 27s. c.i.f., spot sales; good, 31s. 6d. to 34s.; genuine, 37s. to 40s.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

The report of Harrisons and Crosfield for the year ended June 30 last states that the company's business has been carried on successfully in spite of the continuance of difficult conditions in many markets. The net profit earned during the twelve months amounts to £242,475, and £66,526 was brought forward, making a total of £309,001. The directors have paid the full dividends of 6 per cent. on the cumulative preference shares and 10 per cent. on the preferred ordinary shares and interim dividends of 10 per cent. on the deferred ordinary and management shares. These dividends together amount to £159,298, leaving a balance of £149,703. The directors propose to transfer to general reserve, £10,000; to reserve for income-tax, £12,000, and recommend a final dividend of 15 per cent. on the deferred ordinary shares. After providing for the final dividend on the management shares, absorbing £28,497, there remains to be carried forward £70,706, against £66,526 brought in.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97 3/8-97 5/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	256-257
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	315-319
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	23.27-23.29
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.6 3/32-1.6 3/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	92.55-92.65
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	840-850
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	340-350,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.6 3/32-1.6 3/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	830-840
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.46 1/16-4.46 1/4
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	84.90-85.00
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	149½-149¾
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	102.05-.10
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	605-615
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	315-318,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	23.20-23.40

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Activity in Futures.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended September 25 state :—

Futures.—The market during the past week has been active but rather nervous. The net changes since Thursday last are : Sakellaridis, $1.35 up for November, $1.15 up for January, $1.15 up for March ; Ashmouni, $1.25 up for October, $1.10 up for December, $1.10 up for February. The feature of the week has been the entry of the Government into the market. The Government purchases so far have only totalled about 1,000 bales, but the mere fact they are prepared to put their decision into effect has been sufficient to induce heavy speculative purchases, so that between Friday and Monday prices showed a rise of about $2. The inevitable reaction followed this speculative buying, and on Tuesday the market lost a good part of the rise and looked like going lower; however, the publication of the American Bureau figure of 55.4 as condition of the American crop at September 15 and the consequent advance of about 1½ cents in New York improved the position and stopped a further decline. The difference between October Ashmouni and November Sakel is now $10, and the gold difference between October Ashmouni and October New York is about $4. We cannot think that Government interference in the market at present prices can be for the ultimate benefit of Egypt; the difference with American cotton is already large, and we think that any attempt to maintain an artificial level should be deprecated. The Egyptian crop is going to be large, in spite of the Government's preliminary estimate of 5,944,353 kantars, and in our opinion nothing should be done which might be calculated to interfere with the placing of the crop. Demand from consuming centres has been fairly good, and but for the unsettling influence of the Government buying the past week might have seen some good business concluded. The week's receipts amount to 284,458 kantars, against exports 124,834 kantars; the stock stands at 628,184 kantars.

Spot.—We have had a fairly busy week at Minet el Bassal, and sales amount to about 18,100 bales, of which we estimate 6,600 bales Sakel, 7,000 bales Uppers, 3,800 bales Zagora, and 700 bales other varieties. The Government have entered the Spot market and have bought about 1,000 bales Sakel, Zagora, and Uppers during the week. The crop is moving freely, and we have had large arrivals during the week.

Sakellarides.—The bulk of the business has been in cotton from Fully Good Fair upwards, there being no other qualities available as yet. Premiums, although slightly stiffer than last week, are now showing a decided tendency to ease under the weight of the crop movement.

Uppers.—There has been a good and steady demand for this growth in all grades. Spot premiums are rather dearer, and cotton is well held. Lower Egypt Zagora is, by comparison, neglected and can be bought fairly cheaply.

Various.—There has been a small business in White cotton. Pilion has been in request, and a fair business has resulted in good stapled styles.

Crop 1924.—There is nothing new to say on the crop. The daily reports from our expert at present touring the Delta all confirm the prospects for a good Sakel yield, considerably better than last year; the pink boll worm attack is light. Zagora has been a distinct failure in the Delta; the feddan yield is nowhere up to expectations, and in many districts very little better than the Sakel yield.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Business on Moderate Scale.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended October 4 states :—

Business has been on only a moderate scale during the past week. On balance raw cotton has risen considerably, though in the earlier days the heavy fluctuations of the previous week were repeated. Reports from America regarding the yield of the new crop have not been so favourable, and Manchester is now beginning to have its doubts as to the large supplies and resultant lower prices which a short time ago seemed a certainty.

Yarn.—This section has had a rather difficult week. There is considerable pressure for early deliveries in some counts of American, and spinners of these naturally make the most of the position. Others, however, are still struggling to clear their weekly output, and probably have had to make concessions in order to secure business. Generally speaking, quotations are about 1d. per lb. higher on the week. Egyptian qualities have been in rather more active demand than recently, and the position here remains firm.

Cloth.—Buyers have not been willing to pay the higher prices which manufacturers have had to demand, and the turnover consequently has dwindled considerably. A little has been done for China, and the Near East has also sent fair orders, but India has been disappointing.

Raw Cotton.—As already mentioned, this has been, generally speaking, a much stronger market. The weather in the American cotton belt has not been good, and private estimates of the crop yield quote reduced figures. Another Bureau report is due on Wednesday next. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows :—American Middling, 15.23; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 25.40.

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LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Sudan Sakel in Good Demand.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 1 :—

Egyptian Futures.—Since our last report we have experienced a series of excited and rapidly fluctuating markets. The undertone at times has been highly nervous, and substantial reactions have taken place, but with limited selling pressure in evidence; these have been short-lived, and we close at practically the best of the week, with the level showing appreciation for near positions of 106 to 156 points, and distant options 115 to 141 points. Whilst no doubt the primary cause of the strength displayed can be attributed to the recent action of the American markets, other factors have become more prominent, the most important of which is the dangerously low level to which the majority of users have let their stocks run down and the uncovering on the advance of a much larger short interest than generally anticipated. Although a further closing up with Alexandria has taken place during the week, we have still considerably leeway to make up before a shipping parity is reached, and, for this reason, contracts cannot come into this market with their customary freeness. Many operators who took advantage of the wide difference ruling between our market and Alexandria during the summer months have been taking their profit during recent sessions, the cotton so released passing into the hands of covering shorts, and in a lesser degree to the building up of a straddle interest against sales of American. It is proposed that the Liverpool market should run in future two Egyptian contracts, the present option being restricted to Sakellaridis and/or similar varieties grown in Egypt and the Sudan, and the other to embrace the Upper Brown and shorter stapled qualities, the former to come into operation for deliveries November, 1925, and onwards, the latter to commence almost immediately. The existing contract would apparently remain as constituted till November, 1925. The alteration, if carried, should be of benefit to both the spinning and importing branches of the business, but, as the measure is not yet passed, we withhold further comment till next week. Business in yarns has apparently suffered a check owing to the wide fluctuations in the raw material, and, apart from their anxiety to secure cotton for immediate consumption, spinners have shown little interest in the market.

Although new crop arrivals have been on a large scale throughout the week in Alexandria, we are informed that holders are very firm in their attitude; no doubt the promise of Government support in the event of a decline has much to do with this; also, financially, the growers must be in a strong position owing to the very small amount of last season's cotton left on their hands. We rather hesitate to express a definite opinion at the present juncture, and probably the best policy for the time being is to watch events till the outlook becomes more settled.

Egyptian Spot.—The strong futures market, which has been such a feature of the past week, has proved detrimental to trade in actual cotton, and a decided restriction in the daily inquiry has been noticeable. Rightly or wrongly, spinners profess little faith in current rates, and wherever possible they have deliberately avoided making purchases, with the result that we find to-day the curious anomaly of a rise of 100 to 150 points in futures, and a drop of 35 to 145 points in spots for the same period. The arrival of the first two cotton ships, which carried a total of some 8,000 bales, was signalised here by a drop of 150 points in the official quotations of Upper, and 75 points in the quotation of Sakellaridis. The first consignments of Sakellaridis, which had not already been sold at sea, have already been snapped up, and to-day spinners were asking for more with a considerable degree of anxiety. The first supplies have evidently been insufficient to satisfy the pressing needs of the moment at the mills. There have been no complaints as to either quality or price, and no long invoice dates have been asked for. Prices obtained have been roughly between 25.00d. and 27.00d. The Uppers, of which the bulk of the new arrivals has consisted, have not been so eagerly sought after, and there is no disposition on the part of spinners to "snap up" where these are concerned. The cotton is very attractive both in grade and staple, and prices asked vary from about 18.50d. to 19.00d. The week's interest has been almost entirely centred in these early shipments. In old crop cotton a fair inquiry for fair to good fair Sakellaridis has continued, and prices amongst this lower cotton have again hardened.

A steady business has taken place in Sudan Sakel at prices ranging from 23.00d. to 25.00d. There are signs that the local stock of this very popular variety is becoming rapidly depleted. Tokar Sakellaridis of the first quality is no longer to be found, and very little of the lower qualities. White Sudan has been in quiet request at the steady rates. C.i.f. business has been much quieter. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 26th ult. were returned as 3,536 bales. Estimated sales, 1,200 Egypts and 1,150 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel are quoted 35 points lower (fair exceptionally 40 points higher). Uppers and Brown are quoted 145 points lower (fair 25 lower only). F.G.F. Sakellaridis to-day 25.00d.

AN IRAQ DIRECTORY.*

With the publication of a directory Iraq may be said to have received the hall-mark of settled conditions. "The Commercial and Trades Directory of Iraq" makes a very creditable first appearance, containing a quantity of useful material in the course of its 424 pages. In subsequent editions closer attention will, no doubt, be paid to the arrangement of the contents and to headings, which should be repeated on each page when lists are continued over a number of pages. It goes without saying that a directory without an index is launched without half its proper equipment. Apart from these counsels of perfection, the Directory can be commended as a mine of information both for the business man anxious to trade with Iraq and for the general reader, who now has a single volume to turn to for his facts regarding the country. Special prominence is given to legislative enactments, and in addition to the text of the Organic Law we have the Commercial Code, the Company Law, and the Stamp Act. One section is devoted to statistical details, and under the heading "General Information" are grouped articles dealing with administration, cotton prospects, and the ancient cities of Iraq.

* "The Commercial and Trades Directory of Iraq. 1924-25." The Times Printing and Publishing Co. (Mesopotamia), Ltd., Basrah and Baghdad. 20s., plus postage.

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Shipping Intelligence.

NEW VICKERS STEAMER.

Launch of L.C.C. Sludge Vessel.

Messrs. Vickers, Limited, launched on October 2 from their works at Barrow-in-Furness the J. H. Hunter, a twin-screw steamer, ordered from them by the London County Council for the conveyance of sludge from the sewage outfall works, Crosness and Barking Creek, to the North Sea. The vessel was christened by Mrs. John Perring, the wife of the chairman of the Main Drainage Committee, and has been named after Mr. J. H. Hunter, the present Chairman of the Council, who was present at the launch, with Mrs. Hunter, Mr. J. Perring, Mr. G. W. Humphreys (the Chief Engineer to the Council), Mr. Beard and Commander Wise (of the London County Council), in addition to Commander C. W. Craven (managing director) and Mrs. Craven, Mr. G. W. Barr (shipyard director) and Mrs. Barr, and Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Jackson, and other officials of the Naval Construction Works. At the subsequent luncheon in the works Commander Craven, on behalf of the directors of the company, presented a small souvenir to Mrs. Perring, and expressed the hope that it would at any rate tend to remind her of her visit to Barrow. The placing of the order for the J. H. Hunter and her sister ship the G. W. Humphreys was, he said, looked upon by the Vickers Company as a great compliment to the quality of the ships previously built for the London County Council.

The firm's associations with the London County Council commenced in the year 1887, when the Bazalgette was built by the Barrow Shipbuilding Company, and it was of interest to know that, on completion of the two ships now building at Barrow, the London County Council would possess a fleet of nine vessels, of which the Vickers Company had built eight. All the ships embody an ingenious principle, which was evolved nearly forty years ago by Mr. William John, who was then the general manager of the Barrow works. Competitive designs were called for by the Metropolitan Board of Works, and Mr. John secured the first prize of £500 for this design.

THE PORT OF CASABLANCA.

The *Vigie Marocaine*, in a recent issue, says that Casablanca port is insufficiently known in the shipping world, where its traditional inaccessibility seems to be still credited, though foreign visitors are greatly impressed by its safe and sheltered roadstead. Many means of popularising the port are being considered, all excellent in different degrees. It is of vital importance to its future commercial prosperity that the port and its advantages should be advertised amongst those likely to make use of it.

The Chamber of Commerce fully appreciates this, and is concentrating all its efforts on the preparation of notices and pamphlets giving full information upon the commercial situation of Morocco in general and of Casablanca in particular, upon the activity of the port, its merchandise, etc. These are to be published in several languages and completed by photographs.

Like other great ports, Casablanca will thus obtain publicity based on the newest and best opinions and recognised facts, which will undoubtedly bear fruit.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Media for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 18).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Rangoon (London, October 16); s.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 22).

British India Line.—S.s. Manela for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 10); s.s. Nevasa for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 11).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan MacInnes for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, October 15).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Hong Kong for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 15).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Falernian for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Galatz, and Braila (London, October 18).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Tramore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 18); s.s. Sycamore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 5). (The last steamer of the season to Galatz and Braila.) S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 22).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Naldera for Bombay (London, October 17); s.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 18).

NEW CABLE CODE.

Commercial readers will be interested in the issue of a new code, which claims greatly to reduce time and cost of cabling. It is known as the "Birchwood Code," containing many new features, and is published by Charles Birchall, Ltd., 17, James Street, Liverpool.

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†KHIVA.....	9,000 ...	Oct. 24 ...	— ...	Straits, China, Japan
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†DUMANA	8,600 ...	Oct. 11 ...	Oct. 25 ...	Madras & Calcutta
*§PERIM	7,648 ...	Oct. 11 ...	Oct. 29 ...	Queensland Ports
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†*City of Cairo	7,882	Nov. 1	Bombay and Karachi
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§City of Valencia	7,329	Nov. 13	Colombo and Calcutta
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A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

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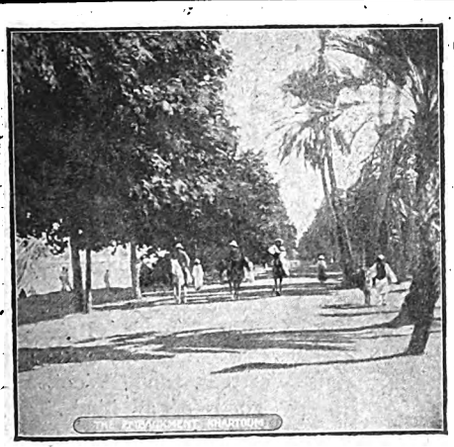

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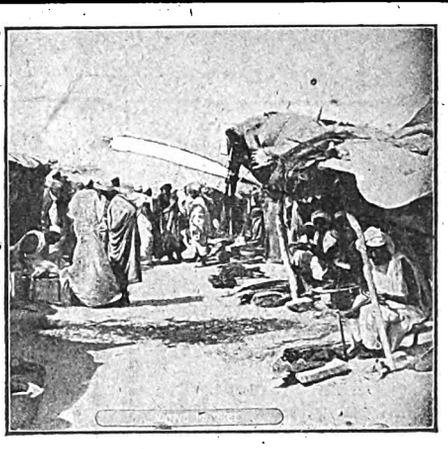

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 701—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Iraqi Frontier.

It has taken two Notes from the British Government to extract an answer from Angora regarding the situation on the northern frontier of Iraq. The second Note, which was more peremptory than the first, was in the nature of an ultimatum, as it fixed a time limit within which the Turkish troops that have invaded Iraq were to be withdrawn behind the line of the "*status quo*" as it existed at the date of the signing of the Treaty of Lausanne. The Turkish answer is conciliatory rather than bellicose, but otherwise is eminently characteristic of the authors. It denies that there has been any violation of the *status quo* or concentration of troops; the main body of troops, which advanced for the purpose of punishing Assyrian bandits, has, it declares, achieved its end and has retraced its steps, and the Turks are prepared to respect a certain line, which happens to be well within the provisional Iraq frontier. Once again Turkey's rulers, who lay so much stress on the country's attainment of Western standards, have acted in a way that entirely belies their claims. It is unlikely that Great Britain will acquiesce in the equivocation to which the Angora Government has resorted, and Turkey will presumably have to take her medicine in two gulps instead of in one. The whole incident would be petty if it did not concern the fate of non-Turkish people in Asia Minor, who look to Great Britain for protection against the Turk. In any case it is so damaging to the Turks that it is difficult to understand the mentality of a Government that deliberately prejudices itself in the eyes of the world for no tangible advantage. The most charitable explanation is that there is no one in the Angora Government capable of following out in advance any line of policy to its logical end. Action is taken on a momentary impulse, and when it is proved to have been mistaken, the whole intelligence of the Cabinet is brought to bear on the best way of extricating the country from its difficulty with the least loss of face. This method of procedure may satisfy the Oriental mind, but must arouse the strongest possible misgivings in the minds of educated Turks who know something of the modern world.

A Political Adviser.

Turkey would derive considerable advantage from following the example of the Chinese Government a dozen years ago, when the attempt was made in Peking to introduce an administration on modern Western lines. A British subject was selected as Political Adviser to the President for the purpose, *inter alia*, of representing the Western point of view and explaining the probable effect of any proposed line of policy on the Western mind. It was not intended that his recommendations should always be acted upon, nor had he to regard himself as called upon to resign if they were not. His province was to make sure that in any given matter on which he was consulted or was allowed to express an opinion the Chinese Government should not take any step in ignorance of the likely effect on the foreign mind or on Chinese relations with foreign countries. As the Adviser was attached personally to the President, the post was in no way derogatory to the Cabinet; on the other hand, every Minister could consult the Adviser whenever he wished, and was under no obligation to reveal to what extent he acted under advice or on his own initiative in regard to any policy adopted by his Department. If a judicious selection were made in the appointment of a similar Adviser for Turkey, there can be little doubt that both the country and its Exchequer would benefit.

Political Currents in Yugoslavia.

Difficulties, it is now reported, have arisen in regard to the reconstruction of M. Davidovitch's Cabinet. M. Raditch is prepared to support the Government, but his party is not to be represented in the Ministry. The reasons for the change in the Croatian Party's plans are not stated. M. Davidovitch would seem not to be entirely satisfied with this arrangement, as he is credited with attempts to bring into the Ministry M. Yovanovitch, who at one time refused to endorse M. Pashitch's demand for a dissolution and was himself invited to form a Cabinet. At a subsequent meeting of the Radical Party M. Yovanovitch abandoned his views on the subject, and once more fell into line behind M. Pashitch. The net result of M. Raditch's refusal to allow his party to be associated in office with the Government will be, it is to be feared, to prolong the period of political

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uncertainty which has been the bane of Yugoslavia ever since the Armistice.

King Ali of the Hejaz.

King Hussein has been succeeded on his abdication by his eldest son, the Emir Ali, who has tried, so far unsuccessfully, to enter into negotiations with the Sultan Ibn Saud. The Wahhabi forces have not remained content with the occupation of Taif, but have cut the Mecca communications with Jeddah, and King Ali, with his Government, has withdrawn from the capital towards the latter port. Until the Wahhabis make known the purpose of their invasion, the situation in the Hejaz remains tantalisingly obscure. Unless Sultan Ibn Saud is aiming at the incorporation of the Hejaz in his own dominions, he will sooner or later decide that the stage has been reached when negotiations are possible. If he should prove to have exaggerated ideas on the subject of an indemnity, the Hejaz Government would no doubt appeal to the good offices of Great Britain for an equitable adjustment. The question of the future residence of King Hussein may be one that will exercise Arab opinion. If it should prove that he intends to seek asylum with the Emir Abdullah in Transjordan, there would be some point in a contention from Sultan Ibn Saud that his presence so near to the scene of his former exploits was undesirable from the point of view of Arab harmony.

INDIA.

Unity and Sincerity.

The autumn recess is apparently to be devoted to yet another of those efforts for surface unity without regard to sincerity which make it so easy to laugh at India's infant politics. Judged by their records, the protagonists are hopelessly divided on points of principle. Some of them want English help to establish genuine self-government. Others want England only to keep the ring, while they play about inside, relieved from the danger of visits from inconvenient neighbours. Others want the English away, so that the old India of privilege, ascendancy, and, of course, bloodshed, may automatically revive. Others, again, merely want the moon. The immediate objective, however, is to get everybody on one platform at a place called Belgaum, where the next congress is to be held, and the idea seems to be that, if only all the trumpets will for once bray in unison, the walls of England will fall flat, after which everybody will reach the promised land. The difficulty is that the discordant sections place the promised land in different continents. Politicians of greater practical experience would see that this is what really matters, and would group themselves into parties according to their destination: novices insist on crowding into the same train, even though some of them want to go to Wembley and others are in search of Woolwich.

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Can England be Squeezed?

An interesting explanation of this attitude is offered in the current *Asiatic Review* by Mr. S. R. Das, who, it will be remembered, put up a gallant fight for sincerity in the last election in Bengal. Mr. Das finds the basis of extremist activities in the widespread belief that England can be squeezed if only the pressure exercised is sufficiently strong, and he urges that the leaders of English parties should come together to lay down a definite policy for the future. The diagnosis is probable enough, for the same mistake has been made elsewhere, notably in Germany ten years or so ago, and we are not at all sure that the treatment recommended would not be effective, though it could not be applied in the middle of a General Election. All that is wanted is a clear statement of the truth that England stands by the preamble of the existing constitution. Indians ought to know that perfectly well, but our habit of taking the obvious for granted is apt to lead to misconception abroad, and a resolution of the new House of Commons, whatever its composition may be, affirming the unanimous decision of 1919, might be a most valuable help on the stony pathway to reality.

The New High Commissioner.

From the English standpoint, the Government of India can be congratulated unreservedly on the selection of Mr. A. C. Chatterjee as the new High Commissioner, for, in addition to his well-known gifts of statesmanship and administrative ability, he possesses the wide outlook which is still unfortunately so rare among his countrymen, and which is indispensable for effective work in London. A distinguished scholar at Cambridge, Mr. Chatterjee, has more recently paid frequent visits to this country; he has made his mark at international conferences in Washington and Geneva, and he may be accepted as a worthy representative of the best that India can offer. Whether he can be spared from Delhi just now is a different question. The succession to his seat in the Viceroy's Council is limited by convention as well as legislation, and within the limits so imposed there are, we fear, very few candidates from which to choose, but Lord Reading and his colleagues have doubtless taken this aspect of the question into consideration, and in any case the importance of the High Commissioner's post is already so great, and its increase so certain in the near future, that some sacrifice of efficiency at Delhi may be justified in the wider interests of India.

It is announced that Signor Mussolini will meet the Yugoslav Foreign Minister at Venice on October 21.

Masri Pasha el Saadi, who acted as President of the Wafd during the exile of Zaghloul Pasha in the Seychelles, died on October 7.

Precautions against plague, which had been imposed by the Turkish authorities on departure from Constantinople, have been withdrawn.

It is reported from Moscow that the Soviet Government has delivered to the Government of Afghanistan five aeroplanes, which flew to Kabul over the Hindu Kush mountains.

After trial before the Assizes at Alexandria, four of the Communist prisoners accused of inciting to revolt were sentenced to three years' simple imprisonment, and the other five to six months.

The Greek Government is reported to be protesting to the Great Powers against the continued Turkish obstruction of the exchange of Constantinople Greeks, due to the Turkish desire to make it more extensive.

According to *The Times* Belgrade correspondent, the Minister for War has tendered his resignation to the King, giving as his reason that the activities of the Raditch Party are not in accordance with the interests of the State.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Election.

The Cambridgeshire has been postponed. But on October 29 we are to have, as compensation, an even more exciting race, in which, however, the bookmakers, and not the public punters, stand as ever to win. The public simply does not want an election, not even for the purpose of destroying the much-abused three-party system, and although it will vote, it will do so in the doleful conviction that such procedure is in party rather than in national interest The party system has, as intelligent people say, "got us stiff"; we are hopeless under its present sway. What our duty on October 29 is is by no means plain, for it is possible that, if one voted according to dictates of temporary feeling, the country might be fatally divided into two classes—those who have possession and those who have not.

Even over how it all came about we are as ignorant as Peterkins. The papers last week made a tremendous "story" of how up to the very last minute of the division over the Campbell-Hastings affairs, leaders of the parties themselves did not know that an election would be on us before the end of the year. But nobody believes that. It is altogether childish to suppose that plans were not prepared weeks ago by all three parties—as soon, in fact, as the Russian Treaty was seen to be a bone of contention sufficiently meaty to ask the country according to it to reconsider the political position.

Everyone except the supremely intelligent is wondering how the three parties will fare, although nobody's opinion on this matters more than that of anyone else. Unless there is a landslide in favour of the Conservatives—a landslide impelled by the will to abolish the further possibility of annual elections—the situation cannot be very much altered. That fact in itself is sufficient condemnation of the election.

The Responsibility for it.

In quite the old intense way the two other parties and the Labour Party are accusing each other of responsibility for fobbing off this nefarious election upon us. The Labour Party accuses the Conservatives and Liberals of malignly uniting to defeat the Government on a petty side issue—the Hastings affair—to which the reply is made that resignation over such an affair is the last action in which any but the thinnest-skinned and most frightened rabbits would indulge. From all this "eye-wash" one can only conclude that all parties desire an election. But even then one is wrong, for the Liberals manifestly cannot wish for an appeal to the electors at the present moment, because of the simple and apparent reason that they have nothing with which to appeal.

It is probably near the truth that in the main personal reasons governed the situation. Latterly the personality of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald has got very badly on Liberal nerves, and even amongst former supporters of the Labour Party his stock has been declining. Particularly, the clash between the Premier and Mr. Lloyd George has for some time seemed inevitable; if there is one man in the Liberal Party who is glad of the chance to be rid of subservience to the Labour Party it is Mr. Lloyd George. This, of course, is very lamentable, but the only remedy would be to dispense with the services of both these politicians.

Over this question of responsibility for the election, then, it is impossible to raise any enthusiasm. All parties, laughing, while we, the dismayed multitudes, looked on, had a hand in it.

The Labour Record.

Labour is full of brave words about what it calls "the coming fight," and there is no doubt about the energy of its army of workers. But, in spite of the fact that it has chosen its own moment, it is doubtful whether it will gain more than ten to twenty seats (these, of course, from Liberals); many judges, indeed, and those not averse from Labour, prophesy even smaller gains, and some, a loss.

It will have to rely, once more, chiefly on promises, for its record is painfully barren. In foreign policy it has most to show (although in "informed" circles the success that has attended Mr. Ramsay MacDonald is put down much more to luck of circumstance than to any application of Labour principles), and success in foreign policy was never, even to the better educated Conservative and Liberal parties, a very inspiring cry. At home it has pulled out none of the bad teeth of the industrial sick man, and the temporary stopping in which it has indulged has pleased nobody very much. Once, in Mr. Wheatley's Housing Bill, it did try to introduce a false set, but the gas designed to make the patient oblivious of his surroundings was badly mixed, with the result that the poor dentist was seized by the sufferer and had half the stuffing knocked out of him.

To all this the reply can justifiably be made that Labour could but introduce half-measures because it was in a minority. That, from the politician's point of view, is reasonable enough. But perhaps the country is sick of politicians (it will prove itself to be fortunately so if it accepts once more Mr. Baldwin), and it is far from certain that, even from an electioneering point of view, it would not have been better to have stuck fast to Labour ideals and lost than to have compromised and thus to have been proved sterile. When the inner history of the last eight months comes to be written it is possible, in fact, that there will be found to have been no greater opportunist than Mr. MacDonald.

It is curious how, for a movement which is supposed to depend far more on mass-motive than on individual leadership, the history of the Labour movement this year has centred round the personality of Mr. MacDonald. The Labour record is his record. Its successes, its failures, and its compromises are the reflection, the creation, in fact, of his ups and his downs and his journeys along the principleless middle way. There has, further, been about him a touch of assumed divinity which, in the first months, when it was believed that Labour might create a new Earth with its Heaven-sent Ministers, the country doubtingly forgave, but which, when it saw that no miracles were coming out of the Labour box, has increasingly irritated it. There has, indeed, been, among the opponents of Labour, a serious danger of Labour principles coming into undeserved disrepute because of the somewhat unctuous way in which they were enunciated or disregarded by Mr. MacDonald.

The Campbell Case.

Upon the actual *casus belli*, the defeat of the Government upon the Liberal amendment that there should be a judicial inquiry into the case of the Communist editor, over which it was certain when it happened that there would be much fuss, History will surely record the verdict that it was the merest pretext on which to go to the country. Government supporters avow that it was the dirtiest trick to turn out an Administration on such a small issue as this, but they cut no ice in doing so. The ordinary Englishman knows that, when a political matter is hushed up, it is hushed up for some purpose, and the attempt of Mr. MacDonald to shield the Attorney-General (who, incidentally,

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made an extremely bad impression with his speech in the Commons) has deceived no one.

In taking this view one need not disguise the fact that worse things than this bungled prosecution have been done under Conservative and Liberal Administrations. But the older parties had at least the sense to allow some sort of inquiry. The sanctity of the actions of the Labour Government, however, is absolute; and of it there could be no questioning.

Political Divisions.

There has during the past week been much discussion of the desirability—the inevitability, as some see it—of dividing the country politically once more into two divisions only, which are called variously Socialist and anti-Socialist, Labour and anti-Labour, and, discreetest of all, Labour and Constitutional. Such a division would, no doubt, be very convenient to party agents and political place-hunters; but their convenience is not our need. Observers who speak of the necessity of the restoration of the two-party system argue generally from the present state of things only, and ignore the fact that political divisions are almost invariably the reflex of economic divisions. Moreover, Tory and Whig conceptions were first acclaimed by people wealthy and educated enough to think; Labour ideals were first accepted (they were constated, of course, generally by well-to-do men) by people too poor to do much but aspire. Now if the successors of the Tories and Whigs were to unite as if in fear of oncoming Labour, what could be more natural than that Labour, inevitably baulked of the realisation of its aspirations, should turn to wilder methods? That is the danger which those who are now trying to unite Conservatives and Liberals are unconsciously running into. Far wiser it would be to let Liberalism die a natural death—the death which it has already suffered, sometimes by premature means, in many Continental countries—and to stifle this absurd Labour and anti-Labour cry.

The German Loan.

The German Loan, of which this country is providing £12,000,000, will, it is said, go like hot cakes. This fact can hardly be ascribed to a profound belief in the statesmanship of Mr. MacDonald's negotiations with Germany. All that it means, unfortunately, is that there is a rare chance for individuals to make money, and it need not be assumed that each investor has first asked himself the question whether his action is as much in the national interest as in his own.

However, finance is a queer business, scarcely designed for men of this world who have time to hope to go to the next. Financiers have spoken, and it is now for the world to obey. The restoration of Germany is assured, and the next thirty years or so will anxiously be spent in watching her grow. And by that time, of course, those who will have made their so much per cent. will be beyond the reach of any possible consequence of their present action.

Slippery Roads.

It will probably amuse readers in the East to read that the Ministry of Transport, having solved successfully the problem of laying dust, is now engaged on the problem of how to prevent the laying of cars and of horses. The asphaltic substances not only bite the dust, but they make fast progress by horse impossible and skids by cars very easy. After a shower on some of our great roads one can hardly prevent skating along in a car.

Obviously, more grit must be put in the top dressing, and one is delighted to think that by this means the poor old horse will once more have a chance of showing what he can do. After all, slippery roads were a danger to everybody, and the horse has been proved right in insisting that his interest, not like the car's, was the common interest.

Galli-Curci's Visit.

If one did not know from other sources that America does not possess the rudiments of musical taste, the knowledge is afforded by singers who come here from that country. Here is Galli-Curci, possessed, as we all were aware from the gramophone records of her voice, of the most perfect vocal mechanism, and yet, to the Albert Hall, crowded with people, what does she choose to sing? "Home, Sweet Home," "Love's Old Sweet Song," and so on!

It must be America which tells these artists which songs to sing in English, for it cannot be their own impulse.

The intelligent musical Press was obviously disappointed with her recital last Sunday. The critics had, justifiably, expected a singer of the century, and they found, apparently, but a singer of the day.

Alter Ego.

FANTASY AND ARABIA.

The combination of Mr. Eric Kennington and Mr. T. E. Lawrence promises to be most fascinating, if the three illustrations now being exhibited (among many other fine things) which the artist has made for the Arabic scholar's forthcoming book are fair samples of the whole series. It will be remembered that Mr. Kennington had an exhibition three years ago at the same galleries—the Leicester Galleries—which consisted mostly of paintings of people connected with Arabs, either of their personification, or of their encouragers, or of their controllers.

We do not know of what Mr. T. E. Lawrence's book is to consist, except that, to judge from these three illustrations, called "Ice Mountain," "Nightmare," and "Massacre at Tafas," there will probably be a good deal of fantasy, with Arabia and Colonel T. E. Lawrence in the background.

If the book is equal to the illustrations, it will be a great work, and immensely stimulating. Of Mr. Kennington's work, in fact, one is inclined to use the word genius, for a Blakish impishness is in it allied to rhythms of the most solid modernity. There are marvellous beauty and most virile restraint in his work. One only hopes that the forthcoming book will be worthy of the illustrations, for in this case we shall assist at an "event."

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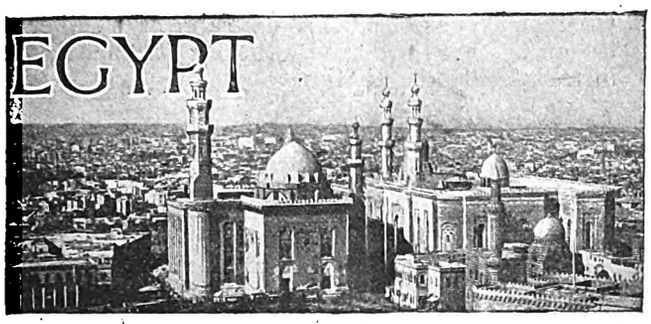
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, October 3.

The London Conversations.

As can be readily understood, little else but the London conversations is being thought of or discussed here The telegrams from Zaghloul Pasha that an atmosphere of cordiality is characterising his discussions with Mr. MacDonald, and that he is satisfied with the progress made, encouraged the hopes of agreement, but the subsequent reports of what is appearing in the British Press have created a certain amount of perplexity, and the extreme optimism that existed a week ago has been considerably tempered by the impression that what are called the "ultra-Imperialists" are getting restive and likely to influence the attitude of the British Government.

H.M. King Fuad.

King Fuad has resumed his public receptions and presided this week at the first Council of Ministers that has been held since he fell ill. Among those whom he received in private audience has been Lord Thomson, Secretary for Air, who waited upon him the morning of his departure for England and will have arrived back in London by the time this reaches you. Lord Thomson's visit has in every respect been a "flying" one, and he seems to have covered an amazing amount of ground during the ten days he spent in this part of the world. It is certainly a tribute to the advance that aviation has made that in that short time he should have been able to visit all the important points in Northern Iraq, including Mosul and the Turko-Iraq frontier, as well as the chief air stations in Palestine and Egypt. His visit was undoubtedly connected with the discussions that were expected to take place with regard to the position which Egypt should fill in the chain of Imperial communications. In this connection his verdict that the route followed at present for the Mesopotamian mail is the proper one for the mail for Northern India and the Far East may be regarded as indicating that the importance of this country as a strategic point on the air routes of the Empire will be recognised, and that, whatever may happen with regard to the purely military forces, this country will not be abandoned as an air base. In fact, the general impression in Service circles is that it will become an even greater base than it has been hitherto.

The Cotton Crop.

The more I have talked to the commercial community the more impressed have I become by the unanimity of the criticism, firstly, of the Government's action in intervening on the cotton market, and, secondly, of its estimates of the area and of the crop itself. It is not only those who are directly interested in the crop who complain, but also those who are engaged in ordinary financial business. The Government intervention is regarded as wholly unjustified by the conditions reigning in the market, where Egyptian already enjoyed a high premium over American, and it is considered that this continuous interference with the ordinary play of supply and demand is having a very bad influence on business in general. As for the estimates, I have not come across anyone who pays the slightest attention to the figures, which are regarded as quite unreliable. Nothing connected with the crop in the field has indeed occurred to justify such a small crop as is forecast by the Government. Indeed, both total area and that devoted to varieties other than the relatively small yielding Sakellarides are such as to call for the estimation of a much larger crop, and the market will be very surprised if it does not turn out to be at least 7,000,000, if not 7,250,000, kantars, as compared with the 5,900,000 kantars at which the Government set it.

The Hejaz.

There is no further news from the Hejaz, where the Wahhabis do not appear keen to advance on Mecca, and where the general situation seems to remain much as it was when I last wrote. Great interest is taken in the news that King Hussein has addressed an appeal to the British Government for its intervention. King Hussein is having a very bad Press here, and Egyptians seem to agree with certain Arab circles that the time has come for him to abdicate. His personality does not, it appears, conduce to the maintenance of good relations between the various chiefs in the peninsula; and it is believed that if he were to disappear from the arena there would be fair prospect of a reconciliation between the opposing factions.

THE SUDAN.

Khartoum, September 24.

The Political Situation.

For the last fortnight things have been extraordinarily quiet in the Sudan. Political agitators

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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appear to be sitting on the fence for a period, possibly waiting the result of the MacDonald-Zaghloul discussions before attempting further anti-British demonstrations.

A certain amount of trouble is anticipated by the authorities during the Mohammedan festival of Mulid el Nebi, which should commence on the night of the 30th inst., with the first appearance of the new moon. This festival will last approximately eleven days. For some months past the Egyptian propagandist has been subtly appealing to the susceptibilities of the fanatic native through religion and the Koran, and continually drawing contrasts between the Moslem elect and the infidel British. It has been realised that up to the present little success has rewarded the propagandist's efforts, but during a religious festival it may be possible to incite worshippers to a state of fanatical frenzy, a mental condition most suitable to perpetrate serious crimes against the "infidel British."

One is led to believe that, other than the foregoing possibility, the electrical elements in the atmosphere are quickly disappearing with the passage of time. This may be attributed to the present attitude of Egyptians in Egypt. Their political aspirations have undergone a complete change. From an almost insane desire to eject the British, lock, stock, and barrel, out of this country, their one great concern now appears to be focussed on the point whether or not Great Britain will permit Egypt to share in the future administration of the Sudan in accordance with the Condominium terms of the 1898 Agreement. They also show great concern, and loudly protest against the suggestion in the Home Press that Great Britain may eject the Egyptians from the Sudan.

Naturally, so much excited talk, coupled with subterranean intrigues of native societies, charged the atmosphere with electricity, and, paradoxically enough, disturbances and demonstrations had to take place to relieve the position.

With a more moderate Egyptian view-point and the possible cessation of extreme Egyptian propaganda in the Sudan, an opportunity will be provided of studying and gauging the extent of the "Sudan for the Sudanese" movement, and whether it is as deep as some claim or whether the Sudan has been utilised by the Egyptians as pawns in their political activities.

A Peculiar Occurrence.

On Saturday, the 11th inst., Moslem mosque-goers at Khartoum were treated to what they afterwards termed an amusing spectacle by the antics of a madman on the roof of the mosque building. It appears that a Sudanese ex-official, a certified lunatic, had, early in the morning, eluded the surveillance of his relatives and made a dash for the mosque. Bursting with anti-British enthusiasm he mounted the inside steps to the parapet of the roof, and from there delivered a speech to the large crowd of persons congregated outside the mosque grounds. His extraordinary choice of a platform and his peculiar and excessive bodily contortions, which were accompanied by terrific shouting, quickly drew together an inquisitive gathering. The madman played upon the religious susceptibilities of the "elect," and decried in no half measures the actions of the infidel British. He attempted to incite the listeners to rise against the oppressors by joining together in a *Jehad*.

Fortunately, the wildness of the statements made convinced the listeners that he was an irresponsible person, with the result that his suggestions were met with good-humoured laughter, even the most fanatical refusing to consider them with any degree of seriousness.

The speaker was eventually arrested and taken to the police station.

It may be interesting to record here that no asylum exists in this country. Lunatics are divided into two classes, dangerous or harmless. Cases classified under the former category are either sent to Egypt or placed in prison, and in the case of the latter, placed under direct control of parents or relatives.

An Attack on Sir Sayed Ali Mirghani.

The *Mokattam* of August 30 contained an article, purporting to have emanated from Khartoum, in which it was stated that at a meeting held at the house of Sir Sayed Ali Mirghani a resolution was passed defining allegiance to King Fuad, King of Egypt and the Sudan. The report also stated that the women were to take part in subsequent demonstrations.

Although Sir Sayed Ali did not consider the report sufficiently alarming to make a public denial to the representative of the British Press, a statement was issued to the Arabic reading public through the local vernacular paper, *Hadara el Sudan*, which is the property of the three religious chiefs, Sir Sayed Ali Mirghani, Abdel Rahman el Mahdi (son of the Mahdi), and Sherif Yusef el Hindi. This statement refuted the whole of the *Mokattam* story. No meeting, political or otherwise, was held in the house of either Sayed chiefs, and the women folk did not intend to participate in demonstrations—because they know nothing whatever about politics.

It may be stated that this ridiculous attack on Sir Sayed Ali Mirghani is only one of the numerous attempts to inveigle this chief into the throes of political agitation instigated by pro-Egyptian enthusiasts.

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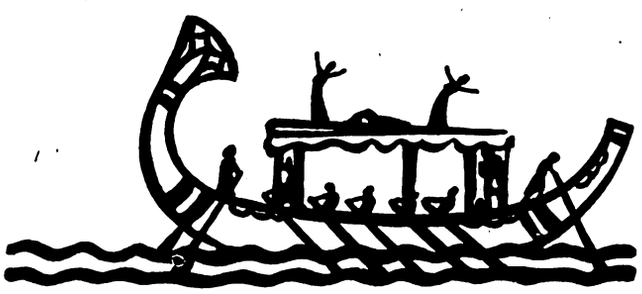
EGYPT — THE ETERNAL WONDERLAND



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GREECE.

Athens, October 2.

The Ministerial Crisis.

Greece is again in the throes of a Ministerial crisis, a crisis which seems altogether uncalled for to the political observer who has no party interests. Some two months ago the political parties in the National Assembly respectively under M. Kafandaris, M. Michalacopoulos, General Kondilis, and General Gonatas, and other small political factions clubbed together to overthrow the Papanastassiou Cabinet. This was achieved to the almost general satisfaction of the Greek people. But then arose the question of forming a new Government. The above-mentioned political leaders did not agree on many points, and it was not possible for any one of them to assume the Premiership. By common accord it was suggested to President Coundouriotis to entrust the formation of a Cabinet to M. Sofoulis, who, practically, has no party of his own. M. Sofoulis formed a Cabinet which made its bow to the National Assembly at its last sitting before the summer recess, and obtained a vote of confidence. Only the party known as the Democratic Union, under the leadership of M. Papanastassiou, voted against the Sofoulis Cabinet.

The Sofoulis Administration.

M. Sofoulis had to face a most difficult situation, the handling of which called for an iron grip and immediate action. For reasons already told, three-fourths of the naval officers in active service had resigned during M. Papanastassiou's premiership, and it fell to M. Sofoulis' lot to put the naval situation straight. He met strong reaction at the hands of the officers, under Captain Colialiexis, who had not resigned their commissions, and who were masters of the fleet, inasmuch as their comrades who resigned had left their ships. Readers of THE NEAR EAST will remember the outbreak of a promptly quelled naval mutiny. Order to-day prevails in the Navy, and this satisfactory result is due to M. Sofoulis' handling of the naval question.

During M. Sofoulis' short tenure of office, two generals, partisans of M. Papanastassiou, attempted a *coup d'état* in order to overthrow the Government. Happily, they found no support worth mentioning in the Army, and their seditious endeavours came to the knowledge of the Government. The Sofoulis Government had the two generals arrested, and they were tried by court-martial. It is true that they were treated with the utmost leniency, but the responsibility for their acquittal on the charge of conspiracy lies with the officers who constituted the court-martial and not with the Sofoulis Government.

Greece some three weeks ago was threatened with a general strike because the workmen of the Piræus-Athens railway objected to a foreman, and went on strike when the railway company refused to dismiss him. All, or nearly all, the labour unions declared themselves solidly with the strikers and threatened a general strike. The reason for the strike was so futile that it was obvious that the whole business had been engineered by Communists. M. Sofoulis, who has not the Communist tendencies of his immediate predecessor, adopted a firm attitude, took severe military measures, and won the day—the strike ended unconditionally, and the foreman kept his post. It is perhaps interesting to note that the general secretary of the Athens Communist centre was recently in Moscow, and that he is in contact with the Soviet Legation here—so at least is your Correspondent assured by those who closely follow the movements of the Communists.

During the past month or so important malversations amounting to several million drachmæ have been brought to light. Many minor officials implicated have been arrested, and are about to be brought to trial. In order to put a stop to malversations once for all, the Sofoulis Government passed a decree for the trial by court-martial of all accused of malversation to the detriment of the State. The procedure at courts-martial is not so long as at the civil courts, and there is little chance of the accused's benefiting by the leniency so characteristic of juries nowadays.

The Sofoulis Government showed the greatest solicitude for the refugees, and devoted all its efforts to enabling the Refugee Settlement Commission to continue its work when it ran short of funds owing to the delay in the conclusion of the refugee loan.

The great problem of the water supply of Athens is, to all appearances, about to be definitely solved, and this thanks to the activity of Colonel Botsaris, Minister of Communications in the Sofoulis Cabinet.

I have attempted to recapitulate the principal achievements of the Sofoulis Government, and it is difficult to realise why the political leaders who brought that Government into existence deemed it advisable to bring about its downfall before the way had been paved for some other ministerial combination.

The Situation.

M. Kafandaris, who was the first to make a public statement which left M. Sofoulis no alternative but to resign, now insists on the formation of a coalition Cabinet to include representatives of all the parties. M. Kafandaris quite recently conferred with M. Venizelos in Italy. Is his attitude to-day the outcome of his conversation with the Cretan statesman? M. Papanastassiou opposes M. Kafandaris's scheme, and the other party leaders are sitting on the fence. The result is a chaotic political situation, and President Coundouriotis has been unable to reach any decision in spite of his conferences yesterday and to-day with political leaders.* To-morrow they are all to be convened

[* This was written, of course, before the formation of a Cabinet under M. Michalacopoulos.—ED.]

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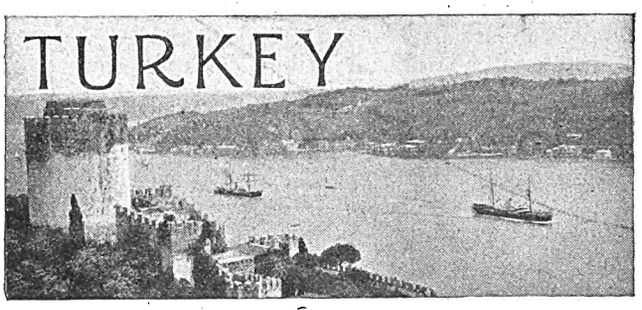
to the Presidential Palace, and Admiral Coundouriotis will recommend the shelving of all personal ambitions for the good of the country. At the present juncture the reconstitution of the Sofoulis Cabinet does not seem excluded. It seems more probable than the realisation of M. Papanastassiou's dream to reassume the Premiership.



Constantinople, October 7.

Thin Anniversary Festivities.

The anniversary of the reoccupation of Constantinople by the Turkish troops took place yesterday, and a programme of "festivities" was arranged. In comparison with the outburst of genuine enthusiasm of last year the ceremonies of yesterday were but a pale shadow, which bore the aspect of an officially imposed routine, in which no one took any real interest. The contrast between the bubbling activity of the Armistice years in this city and the living death of the past twelve months is an insistent fact of daily life.

"Unionist" Opposition.

As the date for the reassembling of the National Assembly approaches the official uneasiness concerning the nefarious doings of the Opposition, who are all lumped together under the generic appellation of "Unionists," is growing greater. The public scare was started by a newspaper report from Smyrna, which stated that a secret congress of the Unionist Party was to be held at Smyrna, and that informers had sent in to the competent authorities a list of the persons who were to be present, with the object presumably of causing their arrest or disappearance. A development of this incident was the report of a series of meetings of influential members of the party at the offices of the late Food Minister, Kemal Bey, at Stamboul. The secret police are as busy as bees; mysterious *communiqués* about meetings of the executive authorities to discuss questions of security and public order find their way into the papers, and the persons and papers which are supposed to have Unionist leanings rightly scoff at the habit of mind of those who, in the free and independent Republic of Turkey, in the year 1 of the new and epoch-making era of the Turkish renaissance, have not progressed beyond the Abdul Hamidian idea that, when two or three are gathered together, there is a sanguinary conspiracy afoot. They are, however, too occidental in their ideas, for there are sufficient indications to show that the uncrowned heads in this country are as uneasy as their crowned predecessors.

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The Mosul Incidents.

The recent incidents on the frontier of the Mosul vilayet have provided the text for a number of acid comments on British brutality and bad faith, but on the whole the soft pedal has been down, presumably as a result of the influence of the Government Press Agency. Hints in the British papers, such as the *Daily News* and the *Westminster Gazette*, that Iraq is costing us more than it is worth, and the sooner we get out the better, have been avidly seized upon in gluttonous anticipation of the good time that is coming when we finally leave Iraq to the tender mercies of its northern neighbour. The Government is playing the prudent and cunning game of standing by the League of Nations whatever its decision may be, but the Press is licking its lips a little too obviously and prematurely.

A Constantinople Deal.

The Municipality of Constantinople has at last pulled off a deal with a foreign financial group, which, on the face of it, looks a fairly good thing for the municipality. The "Syndicat d'Entreprises en Orient," which is understood to be a Franco-Swiss combine, and is represented here by a M. Dumas, has engaged itself to lend to the town twenty millions of French francs, at 8 per cent., reimbursable in five years at latest, and to pay on the nail half a million francs as a deposit in guarantee of the fulfilment of its engagements. For this accommodation the Syndicate acquires the right to secure the tenders for the construction of covered markets, petroleum tanks and warehouses, which are to be built on the shores of the Golden Horn, as long as their tenders are not less favourable than those of other competitors. They have drawn up the plans and specifications of the proposed buildings, and if they are adjudged to other firms the Syndicate draws £T3,000 in reimbursement of its expenses in this respect. The repayment of the loan is guaranteed by the receipts of the petroleum depôts to be constructed, and if these are insufficient other municipal revenues will be earmarked for the purpose. One can only say that, with the example of the Municipal Loan of 1909 staring them in the face, the "Syndicat d'Entreprises en Orient" is to be admired for its courage and optimism.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, September 24.

Turks on the Northern Frontier.

The Turks have again crossed the frontier—this time with guns and in force. In the face of their advance a battalion of native levies and certain Arab police posts have been withdrawn. Aerial action has not been effective in checking the Turkish advance, partly because the terrain is unsuitable for aeroplanes, and partly because the Turks have marched by night and taken cover by day. In spite of these disadvantages, a certain number of casualties has been inflicted by machine-gun fire from the air, and considerable disorganisation of the Turkish transport occasioned. No casualties among British or Iraq forces have so far been reported, except injuries to its two occupants caused by the crashing of an aeroplane on landing.

It is certain now that the objective of the Turks is to bring retribution to the Assyrian tribes who captured the Vali of Hakkiari, and in this way recover their lost prestige. Taking advantage of the fact that the northern boundary of Iraq still remains unsettled, the Turks have marched through a part of the zone under the

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administration of the Iraq Government, thereby avoiding an advance through difficult mountainous country and putting themselves in a position to attack the Assyrian tribes from an unexpected and vulnerable quarter.

Unfortunately, when it comes to a question of Muslim troops attacking Christian tribes, the result is too often wholesale massacre, and the British Government is deeply concerned at the possible butchery of some thousands of Assyrians.

As the air defence, for the reasons stated above, has been less effective than it might have been, and as the greater part of the available land forces are already engaged in the Sulaimaniyah operations, the Turks have been able to burn several Assyrian villages well within the administrative frontier. Having thus created among the inhabitants of the Mosul area the impression that the British and Iraq forces constitute no bulwark against Turkish aggression, the Ottoman Government is pressing for a plebiscite as to the future fate of the Mosul vilayet.

Sulaimaniyah.

Operations in the Sulaimaniyah district have assumed greater activity. Sheikh Mahmud, having secured the assistance of Jaf and Avroman tribesmen, attempted a night raid against Sulaimaniyah, but was repulsed with loss. During the following few days patrols round the town came into collision with several parties of the enemy, and as a result a column composed of a cavalry regiment of the Iraq army was sent out to punish the tribes concerned. In this it was successful, and the tribesmen have dispersed. Since then Sheikh Mahmud has visited some sections of the Jaf tribe, and demanded rifles from them. His request was refused; whereupon a fight ensued between the Jaf tribesmen and Mahmud's followers. The latter were defeated, suffering several casualties.

Visit of M.P.s.

The three members of Parliament who are on a visit to this country, as the guests, it is said, of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., left Baghdad on September 19 for Basrah and the Persian oil-fields. During their brief stay of two days they managed to see a good deal. Early on Wednesday morning, in spite of the fatigue of the long desert run on the previous day, they visited Babylon, accompanied by Miss Gertrude Bell. In the evening they dined with H.E. the High Commissioner, and met the members of the Iraq Cabinet. The following day they visited the Royal Air Force at Hinaidi, and made a flying trip to Ctesiphon, where stands the great arch of Chosroes, returning to take tea with H.M. King Faisal. On their departure the members stated that they were most favourably impressed with all they had seen in Iraq, and that, in their opinion, the ill-considered attacks on the Government of Iraq made by some of the English papers were without foundation. Considering the present condition of the country, they were agreed that the Administration was being conducted on economical and fairly efficient lines, and they were impressed by the vast possibilities for economic expansion in Iraq.

General.

For some time past reports have been current that King Hussein had relented of his decision not to allow any of his son's family to visit Iraq. It now seems certain that King Faisal's son, the Emir Ghazi, is coming to Baghdad. A deputation consisting, among others, of the Minister of Interior, Safwat Pasha of the King's Household, and Hanna Beg Khayyat, is expected to leave to-day for Amman to receive the Crown Prince.

FRANCE AND SYRIA.

On October 10, before the Central Asian Society, Major D. McCallum, who from 1919-1924 was *liaison* officer with the French in Syria, gave some account of his experience of French rule in Syria, its difficulties, and its successes. He deliberately laid stress on the difficulties and the successes of the French, because, he said, most of the stories of the French administration of Syria that had reached Europe had come from superficial sources, and could not be credited. After reviewing the trouble that France had with the Arabs—whose habit of intrigue and whose cowardice he made no attempt to minimise, instancing Faisal's relations with the Damascus congress of extreme Nationalists and the conduct of Arab troops in the battle of Khan-Meiseloum—he went on to explain the defeats suffered by the French Army of the Levant in the North of Syria—defeats which culminated in the Angora Accord of 1921. That Accord had had grievous effects upon European prestige with the Turks, who since that time have made no effort to conceal their designs upon Aleppo and Alexandretta.

In conclusion, the lecturer insisted on the necessity of Anglo-French co-operation in the Middle East. The stability of Syria was essential, for it was a kind of buffer State between the British mandated territories of Palestine, Transjordan, and Iraq. The present discontents of the inhabitants of Syria were not due to political reasons, but to the bad condition of trade. They did not care greatly whom they were under so long as they could trade profitably, and in order to bring this state of affairs about the various Custom barriers that had been set up since the abolition of Ottoman rule should be abolished.

General Vicomte de la Panouse spoke of the improving situation in Syria and of the necessity for Anglo-French co-operation in the Middle East. The agreement between France and Turkey was hardly an absolute one.

Lord Peel, who presided, emphasised once more the urgency of Anglo-French co-ordination.

INSTITUTE OF JEWISH STUDIES.

The Hebrew University Committee announces that, as a result of the decisions of the University Conference recently held in London the following scholars have been offered and have accepted professorships for limited periods at the Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem:—

Professor M. Guttmann, Breslau Rabbinical Seminary (Halacha); Professor L. Margolis, Dropsie College, Philadelphia (Bible versions); Professor Louis Ginsberg, Jewish Theological Seminary, New York; Rabbi Dr S. Klein, Nove Zamky, Czechoslovakia (Biblical topography); Chief Rabbi Dr. Immanuel Loew, Szegedin, Hungary; Mr. Chaim N. Bialik (modern Hebrew literature); Dr. Chaim Heller, Berlin; and Professor Mittwoch, Berlin University (Arabic).

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AFFAIRS IN AFGHANISTAN.

(From an Afghan Correspondent.)

Progress in Afghanistan.

Recent events in Afghanistan tend to justify the belief that one day, not very distant, that country will play a very important part in the politics of the Middle East. The present ruler of Afghanistan has achieved much—both politically and economically—which his predecessors were unable to secure.

It has, for instance, been now fully realised that the very first step towards national greatness lies in education, education at once free and liberal. Rigorous measures are being adopted in Afghanistan to impart knowledge not only to the male elements, but also to the women. A ladies' college in Kabul, which would have been unthinkable fifty years ago in Afghanistan, is to-day a flourishing institution An American lady is employed as its head mistress, and the prejudice against giving higher education to Afghan women is fast disappearing. Great precautions are adopted for Purdah of the students, with the consequence that now girls, not only of the lower, but also those belonging to the upper classes, sit together with their poorer sisters.

Further, the cultivation of international relations, upon which Afghanistan is now engaging itself with great zest, has necessitated the giving by the Foreign Office at Kabul that special training to its units which is required of diplomats. A school of political science has been opened at Kabul. In this institution, not only are the younger candidates for the diplomatic services coached, but also the older officers are to be found taking advantages of the newer order of things. There are hardly any subjects, bearing upon politics, which are not taught in this school, and its fruitful results are greatly appreciated by the Afghans already.

War Training.

In this great desire of the Afghans for education, the facts that they are essentially a martial race and that the art of war must on no account be neglected have not been forgotten. Military training, therefore, has not been dethroned from its important position, and quite a large number of boys are receiving training at the military college, under both Afghan and foreign instructors. In this regard it is most interesting to observe that the Afghans now fully appreciate the value of the science of warfare according to modern conditions, and much attention is being paid to the real points of strategy. The Ameer, to commemorate the memory of his fallen soldiers, had an Arch of Victory erected at Kabul, and only the other day a distinguished nobleman performed the unveiling ceremony.

Diplomacy.

In matters of diplomacy in Afghanistan of to-day the Kabul Government is particularly careful to mete out the same treatment to representatives of all countries. A new Plenipotentiary has just arrived from Soviet Russia at Kabul; and, as is usual on such occasions, in offering his diplomatic credentials to the Ameer, he made a speech calculated to demonstrate the friendship which the Soviet desire with Afghanistan. The very first step towards that direction, he contended, was the establishment of a Trade Treaty between the two countries. A suitable reply was given that Afghanistan was quite willing to have that brought about.

But whilst there may not be any harm in making a trade treaty with foreigners, yet it is now very keenly felt in Afghanistan that, as far as possible, Afghan products must be bought always in preference to foreign goods. With a view to this extraordinary efforts are being made towards the production of necessary things in the country itself. Machines of many descriptions are being bought and worked in Afghanistan, and potentialities of the land are being exploited with great zeal. Only recently a company has been formed which has the mining of precious stones and coal in view. It may be remembered that the Province of Badakhshan is reputed for its rubies, and in western districts of Afghanistan not only has coal been tapped, but oil is suspected.

The Ameer.

As regards the present trend of Afghan politics, everyone seems to be agreed on the point that the present Ameer is by far the most popular who has ever ruled Afghanistan, and that he is a true well-wisher of his country. Practical proofs of this are to be found in abundance. Superficial observers think that, although the general feeling in Afghanistan is in favour of the Ameer, yet the new order of things to which he has given shape is not appealing to the conservative section of his subjects. That is, however, not the fact. That a sudden abolishing of old customs and traditions in a conservative country often brings uneasiness is an undeniable historical generalisation, but Afghanistan has proved an exception. The introduction of the newer methods was effected with full and unqualified co-operation and consent of the older section of the people.

The Khost Rising.

This brings us to the consideration of the fact, whether the Khost rising in Afghanistan occurred as the result of those new reforms.

Many followers of Middle Eastern politics still seem to attribute the Khost rising to the resentment which a certain element of the religiously minded people in Khost had felt against the amended form of the Afghan laws, called the *Nizam Nama*. Whether that was the real cause of the revolt can be judged from the fact that, when the Afghan *Mullahs* of repute assembled at the Loi Jigah in Kabul recently, and made the necessary alterations in it, and caused it to be sent to the Khost district, the expected results of the step failed to materialise. The rising did not subside.

Not a few people, otherwise well informed, have imagined that a certain ne'er-do-well, Abdul Karim, a son of the late exiled Amir Yakub Khan, is not only the perpetrator but the real soul-force of this revolution in Khost. Nothing can be further from the truth. All the prominence which he has been given has been invested upon him from ill-informed people, and even the revolutionaries themselves now pay no heed to his alleged attainments or the right of parentage.

The Ameer has given express orders to his army that arms are not to be used against the people of Khost, and a large number of regular troops at the point of trouble are really doing nothing. The Ameer is of opinion that the ties of nationality between the people of Khost and the rest of the Afghans are too close to warrant the employment of the force of arms. The troops have, however, been permitted to surround the reactionary group, and arms are to be used as a means of self-protection. Already the ingress and egress of the recalcitrants have been closed, half of them have submitted, and it will now be not long before the whole affair is settled. On the other hand, a sense of resentment towards the revolutionaries is perceptible amongst the general public of Afghanistan, and large numbers of influential clans have begged permission to smash the rebellion if the Government does not care to deal with the Khosties.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

October 16, 1924 (New Style).
October 3, 1924 (Old Style).
Rabia I, 17, 1343 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tishri 18, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Zaghloul Pasha embarked at Marseilles for Egypt yesterday.

M. Norteza Gazvini is acting as Persian Consul-General in London.

The Indian Empire Club is holding a dance on October 18 at the Hyde Park Hotel.

Viscount and Viscountess Milner are leaving England at the end of the month for South Africa.

General Lord Rawlinson, Commander-in-Chief in India, is returning there from England next month.

Mr. Justice Page, Mrs. Arthur Page, and Miss Margot Page left London last Friday for Rome, *en route* for Calcutta.

The Infanta Beatrice entertained Prince and Princess Paul of Serbia at luncheon on October 7 at Claridge's Restaurant.

The Emil Zeid, youngest brother of King Ali of the Hejaz, has arrived in England in order to study at Balliol College, Oxford.

On Tuesday, October 14, Professor D. S. Margoliouth read to the Royal Asiatic Society a paper on "The Origins of Arabic Poetry."

Mme. Sabet Bey, the wife of Mahmoud Sabet Bey, First Secretary at the Egyptian Legation, has now recovered from her recent indisposition.

Miss Cornelia Sorabji is sailing from Naples to-day for Calcutta, where she intends to practise law. She was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn last year.

Viscount and Viscountess Erleigh arrived on October 11 at 65, Rutland Gate from India, where they have been on a visit to the Earl and Countess of Reading.

Mme. Aziz Izzet Pasha, wife of the Egyptian Minister, left London on Saturday, accompanied by her daughter, Princess Hassan, to join the Minister in Paris.

The Roumanian Minister in London and Mme. Titulesco left Geneva last week for the South of France, where they will spend a short holiday before returning to London.

Mme. Matila Costiesco-Ghyka, wife of M. Matila Costiesco - Ghyka, formerly Secretary at the Roumanian Legation in London, arrived in London last week from Paris.

Sir Frederick William Duke, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., Arbroath, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for India, formerly Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and prior to that Chief Secretary to the Governor of Bengal, who died in June, aged 60 years, left, in addition to considerable real estate and settled property, unsettled personal estate in Great Britain valued for probate at £9,156.

The Maharaja of Nawanagar on October 8 concluded his visit to England, and left Victoria by the forenoon boat-train express *en route* for Marseilles, where he embarked for Bombay.

Under the auspices of the East India Association, Sir Reginald H. Craddock will, on October 20, at 3.30 p.m., at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, read a paper on "India and Burma: Some Contrasts."

In the annual exhibition of the Royal Institute of Oil Painters, now being held at 195, Piccadilly, Mr. Percy R. Craft has two pictures, "Vegetable Market inside the Jaffa Gate, Jerusalem" and "In the Great Square, Damascus."

The Maharanee Regent of Travancore has appointed a Syrian Christian lady doctor, Mrs. Poonen Lukose, head of the State medical service, to be a member of the local Legislative Council. She is the first lady in all India to occupy either position.

The marriage arranged between Captain George Bambridge, M.C. (late Irish Guards), Attaché, H.M. Embassy, Madrid, and Elsie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rudyard Kipling, of Bateman's, Burwash, Sussex, will take place at 2.15 p.m. next Wednesday at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

The Bishop of Gibraltar left London last week for Belgrade to visit various chaplaincies and British communities in the Balkans. He will then proceed to Constantinople *en route* for Smyrna. All letters should be sent to the Gibraltar Diocesan Office, Church House, Westminster.

Among the passengers by the P. and O. Bombay express which left London last Thursday to join the steamship Narkunda at Marseilles were Sir Gordon and Lady Fraser, Sir Dawson and Miss Miller, Sir B. K. and Lady Mullick, Sir John Bucknill, Sir George Buchanan, Sir Percy and Lady Thompson, Major-General Sir A. Skeen, and Sir Oswald Bosanquet. Lady Roberts, the Raja and Rani of Mandi, Sir Charles and Lady Todhunter, Lieutenant Sirdar Singh of Kapurthala, Lady Wheeler, Sir Cowasjee and Lady Jehanghir also sailed from Marseilles in the Narkunda for Bombay.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1924.

EGYPT'S TESTING TIME.

When the subject of Anglo-Egyptian relations was discussed in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's dispatch to His Majesty's High Commissioner for Egypt regarding the course of his conversations with Zaghloul Pasha had not been published. From this communication it is evident that the Egyptian Prime Minister's demands were even more extreme than he had been given credit for. The points on which he declared that he was bound to insist were the withdrawal of all British forces from Egyptian territory; the withdrawal of the Financial and Judicial Advisers; the disappearance of all British control over the Egyptian Government, notably in connection with foreign relations; the abandonment of the British claim to protect foreigners and minorities in Egypt; the abandonment of the British claim to share in any way in protecting the Suez Canal. From the wording of Mr. MacDonald's report it has to be inferred that these were in the nature of preliminary demands intended to pave the way to a discussion on the subject of the Sudan. Mr. MacDonald, however, raised the latter question himself, and called Zaghloul Pasha's attention to the statements which he was reported to have made before the Egyptian Parliament, only to find that Zaghloul Pasha adhered to all that he had said in Egypt, justifying himself on the ground that he was voicing the opinion not only of the Egyptian Parliament, but also of the Egyptian nation. In these circumstances it is not surprising that the conversations were abruptly terminated, and that Zaghloul Pasha returned immediately afterwards to Egypt. No Briton, however great his sympathy with the Egyptians in their desire for independence, can fail to be amazed at the course taken by the London conversations. The difficulties of Zaghloul Pasha's position in Egypt were well understood, and allowance was readily made for the necessity in which he found himself of having to endorse the cries of the extremists among his followers; but it was not anticipated that in private conversations the Egyptian Prime Minister would merely echo the irresponsible demands associated with mob clamour.

There must be many things clear to Zaghloul Pasha in regard to Anglo-Egyptian relations which the Egyptian man-in-the-street will overlook or be unable to appreciate. In the first place, the grant of independence to Egypt—however much it may have been her due and Great Britain's obligation to give it—was, under the conditions existing, in the nature of a bargain. No one in their senses would imagine that after forty years of occupation, after building up the prosperity of Egypt and causing it to occupy a special position in the scheme of the British Empire, the British would walk out of Egypt without a further thought for Egypt's interests or for their own. In making the formal grant of independence, it is true that the British Government of the day, instead of waiting for the *quid pro quos* to be agreed upon, said, in effect: "Here is the independence you want; we trust you sufficiently to leave our side of the bargain to be settled later." It was the gesture of an honourable man who imagined that he was dealing with some one of his own standing. As Mr. MacDonald points out in his report of the conversations, he has by no means abandoned hope that, on further consideration, the basis of an agreement acceptable to both countries can be found. In other words, Great Britain is confident that, sooner or later, she will be dealing with an Egypt that is not lost to all sense of honour; for the present, however, it is not this Egypt that Zaghloul Pasha represents. His attitude, which has rendered agreement between the two countries impossible for the moment, is that of a man who, having received what he wanted, repudiates his side of the bargain. Zaghloul Pasha can say that, personally, he never agreed to the bargain, and that he has continually reminded Great Britain of the fact. In dealings between countries, however, there is no place for these distinctions between the State and the individual. Egypt accepted her independence at Great Britain's hands and took note of the reservations made at the time by the latter. A Cairo mob or irresponsible students may shout that they will not have this, that, or the other, but a man who claims to be a leader of his people should be more zealous of his country's honour, and should refuse to be a party to the dishonouring of the nation's bond. That this is a rôle which Zaghloul Pasha is not qualified to play, he has himself shown in the London conversations. There were men in his entourage, and there must be many more in Egypt, who were prepared to acquiesce in a more honourable interpretation of Egypt's duty. For the time being, however, Zaghloul Pasha is Egypt and Egypt is Zaghloul Pasha. Great Britain has no need to take the situation too tragically. The day of the individual passes, while the nation endures, and in the long run its aggregate common sense and a higher code of honour will prevail.

In view of the demands that Zaghloul Pasha put forward in London, it may be doubted whether he was intellectually capable of profiting by the exchange of views with the British Prime Minister; but it is to be hoped that the reasoned statement of the British case now made public by Mr. MacDonald will carry conviction in Egypt beyond the circles where even now it is recognised that Egyptian interests require the maintenance of close ties of friendship and co-operation with Great Britain. The most astounding of Zaghloul Pasha's demands was that Great Britain should abandon her claim to share in any way in protecting the Suez Canal. The security of this waterway is a vital interest of the British Empire, and the absolute certainty that it will remain open in peace as well as in war for the free passage of British ships is the foundation on which the entire defensive strategy of the British Empire rests. But such is the mentality of the present Egyptian Prime Minister that he can seriously put forward the suggestion that Great Britain should divest herself of all interest in the security of the Suez Canal and leave it to be settled between an Egypt of fourteen million unwarlike inhabitants and the rest of the world. There is in this suggestion an indication of such complete detachment from actual realities that one would despair of the future of the country if it were not realised that one day it will be possible to appeal from Egypt drunk with the heady wine of mob oratory to Egypt sober. Great Britain can afford to be

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patient and tolerant, so long as the policy outlined by Mr. MacDonald regarding the Suez Canal and the Sudan is carried out firmly and in its entirety, in the certainty that there are to be found in Egypt greater knowledge and higher statesmanship than are centred in Zaghloul Pasha.

EGYPT UNDER THE TURKS AND BEYS, 1517-1811.

By F. W. BUCKLER.

[*The following lecture was delivered on August 19 at the Cambridge University Summer School, and was preceded by lectures on the history of Egypt under Muslim rule down to 1517, given by Mrs. R. L. Devonshire, and on the history of Egypt from the time of Mohammed Ali to the eve of the Great War, given by Sir John Marriot. Between these two periods, as Mr. Buckler pointed out, lie three centuries of Egyptian history—a dismal record of oppression and tyranny. "There was," he said in the introduction to his lecture, "no hope of peace and good rule in Egypt until Mohammed Ali made good the neglect of Salim the Grim and exterminated the Mamluk Beys in 1811. That was his crowning triumph and greatest service to Egypt."*—Ed.]

In 1517 the Byzantine Empire was once more complete under Turkish rule, and the political ravages of Christian theologian Emperors nine and ten centuries earlier were repaired by the sword of the Muslim Salim the Grim. The position of Egypt in the Ottoman Empire was not unlike its position in the Roman Empire—it was a constant source of revenue and anxiety to its conquerors, and it was the granary of Constantinople. It was the centre of much of the political unrest of the Muslim Empire, just as it had been the centre of turmoil in the years following the Edict of Milan, with the difference that its later developments tended to be local and feudal, instead of being œcumenical and ecclesiastical, for Satan carried off the only person who could stir up religious strife—the Khalifah Mutawakkil.

Now, the great error to which most historians of the East are liable is the error of over-estimating the size of Muslim armies. The numbers are exaggerated to provide the victors with glory adequate to their importance—the simple method was to include all attendants, including *saises* (grooms), lackeys, butchers, and sweepers, who generally outnumbered the combatants by five to one. And, moreover, the historian, too, is prone to forget that an army is but an army, and not primarily an administrative body. In the East the functions of government are quite separate—the *amir*, who leads the army of the faithful and keeps order on the spot, and the *aru'l*, who collects the revenue, to hand it over either to the central government or to the *amir* or his deputies to whom the revenue of a district has been granted in payment of the services of his detachment and of himself.

Now, in order to provide for this element of local government—the collection of taxes—all Muslim conquerors have been forced to rely on the feudal chieftains or official classes of their predecessors. In Greece it was the Phanariots; in Egypt it was the Mamluk Beys, and a comparison between the history of Greece and Egypt under Muslim rule reveals but the rebellion of these official classes against the central government—the Western historian and politician calls these rebellions "national movements," and urges intervention in support of them, oblivious of the fact that too often they have been occasioned by the attempt of the central government to suppress local tyranny. It was to the Mamluk Beys that Salim the Grim looked to perform the revenue functions of Egypt—they were left in charge of the 12 *Sanjaks*.

The government of the country was left in the hands of a Viceroy—a *pasha*—supported by six regiments; his successor, Sulaiman the Magnificent, added a seventh regiment of Circassians. But a Viceroy, so strongly supported, was liable to rebel, and to provide against this contingency the governor was changed every few years and two councils or courts were created—the greater and lesser *Diwans*—the first council composed of the heads of the military forces, the second composed of the heads of the 12 Sanjaks—that is, of the 24 leaders of the Mamluks. Without their consent the Viceroy could do nothing. If he displeased them they could depose him, and at any time their agents at Constantinople could spread the rumour that the Viceroy was preparing to announce his independence. This rumour invariably resulted in the dispatch of two *firmans*, one appointing a fresh Viceroy, the other containing orders for the execution of the old. "A pasha's life was not a happy one," for his crime might merely be that he had listened with sympathy to an oppressed peasant. It will be seen, then, that reform of the government was impossible as long as the interests of the Beys were able to obtain effective support from Constantinople, and as long as the Mamluks were in such a strong position—they possessed both economic and political control of the country, together with the natural right to rebel. Each Bey had his private Mamluk following, and as the recruitment of the Diwans was from the most approved followers of the most influential Bey, the tendency of the Diwans was towards a close corporation, and therefore unreformable body.

Their power was considerably increased, however, by the fact that two offices were in their patronage—that of the *Sheikh ul Balad*—or Mayor of Cairo—and the *Amiru'l Hajj*—or the leader of the Pilgrimage. Each had its guard of Janissaries. Now it was round these two that political parties and controversies raged. It was under their leadership that the government was maintained; the *Sheikh ul Balad*, indeed, ultimately became *de facto* ruler of Egypt, while the Pasha gradually receded into the position of a theoretical source of authority—a *roi fainéant*. Both these officers were confirmed in their appointment, not by the Viceroy's *firman*, but by the Sultan's *firman*, so their prestige was high.

One concession was made—it is usually stated as such—to Egyptian pride—Egypt retained the right of its own coinage. But there, I think, the Western historian misinterprets an ignominious duty as a political privilege. Egypt was compelled to strike its coin bearing the superscription of her conqueror. The third Governor—one Ahmad—struck coin in his *own name*, and orders were issued for his deposition. These he tried to ignore, but they were enforced by two Beys whom he had imprisoned. They effected their escape, and Ahmad passed from the pleasures of the bath to the pleasures—or otherwise—of the beyond, in accordance with the fate-bearing decree of Destiny—and of the Sultan.

The religious settlement—in view of its present interest—calls for some notice. We have already seen that Salim the Grim removed the last Egyptian Abbassed Khalifa. The Ottomans maintain that the Khalifat surrendered his rights to Salim, who thereby became Khalifat in his stead. Now, he was certainly not entitled to do this, and an-

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attempt has been made recently to discredit any transaction of the sort by Professor Nallino of Rome, and it has received some support, I believe, from Sir Thomas Arnold. We know, from contemporary poems in Aleppo and Mecca, that Salim was saluted as Khalifat as early as 1519. He was urged to take up the title even earlier by the Vali of Samargand in Persia. The Sunnis of Persia objected to forcible conversion to the Shi'ah heresy, and required a much stronger supporter than Mutawakkil—the Khalifat—so policy would dictate the action. Further, the old rivals of the Ottoman House—the House of Timur—at once began to move to a position from which it could assert its independence alike of Persia and Turkey. This movement culminated in Akbar's proclamation of himself as Khalifat of the age in 1579. Further, the Mughals never recognised the Ottoman claim. The actual history of the transfer is probably somewhat as follows :—It turns upon the double meaning underlying the word Khalifat—successor and deputy. The Ottoman Sultan might well have been appointed deputy of the successor of the Prophet, as well as successor of the successor of the Prophet at a later date—the word Khalifat would cover both and satisfy the political needs of the Ottoman. We shall see—later—a curious consequence of this step in the policy of Tipu, Sultan of Mysore. The chief Qadi was appointed annually by the Ottoman Court at Constantinople, and after his year of office proceeded to Mecca to perform the Pilgrimage. He was always a divine and lawyer of standing—not infrequently well versed in the principles of Roman Law.

The economic effects of the Turkish conquest of Egypt are liable to be overrated. It is quite true that a heavy subsidy of corn and money was a serious drain on the resources of the country, and that it led ultimately to a decline in cultivation. So serious did this decline become that Egypt tended to suffer from famine in years when she should have enjoyed prosperity. But it was not merely the subsidy which caused the decline. The maintenance of the establishment of the Beys fell on the agricultural districts, and *that* levy was even more rigorously exacted than the levy for the tribute to Constantinople. Moreover, the wealth of the Beys and their Mamluk followers tended to be spent in Cairo, so that the districts did not receive their proper return for their labour and outlay. Further, Egypt, like Venice, received a severe blow from the discovery of the Cape route to India, a blow from which she has not yet recovered, for merchandise no longer changes hands to any extent in Egypt, but passes straight through the canal to be unloaded in the ports of London and Marseilles. The severity of the blow is reflected in the warfare which took place between the Portuguese and the Egyptians in the Red Sea and Gulfs of Persia and Arabia. When the Ottoman Turks took Egypt, her commercial prosperity was already on the decline, and with her commercial prosperity was unfortunately linked much of her local prosperity. Salim, however, carried off the best of the artisans to beautify and embellish Constantinople; but here, again, the blow need not have been fatal but for the greed and rapacity of the Mamluk Beys who were left in power by Salim. The wealth they drew from Egypt tended only to increase their power to buy Circassian Mamluks, to increase their following, and consequently their power to perpetuate disorder. When Salim the Grim failed in his grim duty of extirpating the Mamluk feudalism, he sealed the fate of Egypt until there should arise one whose courage was equal to the task.

In 1527 the first survey of Egyptian lands was made to take the place of the old records which had been destroyed by fire. The Mamluks by that time were in full possession of their fiefs, so that when the system was applied in 1605 it merely strengthened their hold upon the country. The land was divided into four classes :—

(1) The Sultan's domain.
(2) Fiefs of the Mamluks.
(3) Lands for the maintenance of the army.
(4) Lands for the maintenance of religious foundations.

(To be continued.)

EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

The *Sphinx* has now published its annual tourist number, entitled "Egypt and the Sudan." It is profusely and excellently illustrated, and contains a varied list of articles. The following may be singled out :—"The Voice of Egypt," by H. V. Morton; "Egypt for Change of Mind," by Valentine Williams; "Egypt as Health Resort," by T. Gerald Garry; and "The Sudan for Sport and Pleasure," by Edward Fothergill. Altogether it is an attractive production.

Mr. Gandhi on October 8 completed his three weeks' fast undertaken to induce Muslims and Hindus to compose their differences.

President Doumergue received recently Sardar Ali Mahomed Nadir Khan, who presented his credentials as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Afghanistan in Paris.

The Emir Ghazi, the Crown Prince of Iraq, King Faisal's twelve-year-old son, arrived at Baghdad on October 7 from the Hejaz. He is the only member of the Faisal family that King Hussein has so far allowed to visit Iraq. The young prince was given a public reception by all the notables of Baghdad, several hundred Boy Scouts being present.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

Insurance of Credits.

The interesting announcement comes from Bucharest that an Anglo-Roumanian Insurance Company has been established in Roumania with the participation of two British companies, the Commercial Union Assurance Co., Ltd., and the Excess Insurance Co., Ltd. If I am not mistaken, the new company will be particularly interested in the insurance of credits, a branch of insurance that has not hitherto received the public attention to which it is entitled. The very limited application given to the Trade Facilities Act may be partly due to the inherent difficulty of working the scheme involved by means of a Government Department. If, however, trade with the Balkans and other countries suffering from a depreciated currency is to be placed once more on a satisfactory basis, it is evident that credit must be given by the British manufacturer, who to this end must be provided with a guarantee that payment will be forthcoming when it falls due. To obtain this he will be willing to pay a reasonable premium. A credit insurance scheme, therefore, requires that the British company accepting the risk should be able to satisfy itself through an allied company in any given country that the person to whom the British manufacturer's goods are consigned can be relied upon to honour his undertaking. This security can be provided in a number of ways, the choice being left, as far as the British insurance company is concerned, to the allied concern on the spot, which will naturally be cognisant of local conditions and better able to accept responsibility. It is this rôle, I hope, that the new Anglo-Roumanian Company in Roumania will be called upon to play, to the rapid development of trade between Great Britain and Roumania, and I shall hope to hear of similar ramifications in the other Balkan countries.

Agencies in Greece Required.

One of our readers in Athens writes to say that he is co-operating with a civil engineer who is an expert in building construction. He is desirous of being introduced to building manufacturers, such as cement, round steel, etc., in order to act as their agents in Greece, also in the same way to mineral oil concerns for benzine and all other oil products. Write, in first instance, to THE NEAR EAST, 167, Strand, London, W.C.

The Exhibition.

No definite decision has yet been arrived at with regard to the continuance of the British Empire Exhibition, and it may well be that nothing will now be done until after the election. Opinion among those most closely concerned in the Exhibition seems curiously divided. A number of the exhibitors appear to be profoundly dissatisfied with the results, while others say that they have been fully in accordance with their expectations. In the case of an exhibition like this one, the real value of participating lies in the influence that the publicity thus afforded may be expected to exert over a number of years. Viewed from this, the only reliable, standpoint, it is impossible to tell whether the Exhibition will justify itself; one simply has to take it on trust. On one point, however, there can be no doubt. The success of the Exhibition in 1925 must depend on the support of those who are now participating in it. Were there to be any notable absentees among the representatives of the Empire overseas, or were there to be any marked lack of support on the part of the principal British industries, the outlook could not fail to be unfavourable.

Turkish Reparations.

The present position with regard to Turkish reparations is the subject of a brief article in this issue. By a Convention of November 23, 1923, it was agreed by Great Britain, France, Italy, and Japan to devote jointly the sums in gold referred to in Article 58 of the Treaty of Lausanne and the £T846,100 Turkish Government Treasury Bills, purchased by the British Government from the holders in 1914, to the reparation of damage suffered by their nationals in Turkey. The Commission for the administration of this fund has now been set up, and has been holding preliminary meetings in Paris. Under the terms of the Convention, all claims must be received before August 6, 1925.

The Rise in Rubber.

For a few days last week the market in raw rubber remained relatively dull, but yesterday saw a new advance, and now the commodity stands at 1s. 4d. With a progressive reduction in stocks in London the position is certainly most interesting, particularly as a further restriction in output by 5 per cent. is in prospect at the end of the month. For this not to take place it would now be necessary for rubber to average something like 1s. 6d. between now and October 31. This is hardly likely, though I shall not be surprised to see rubber touch 1s. 6d. before November, and following a further restriction it ought to go much higher.

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TURKISH REPARATIONS.

The Inter-Allied Assessment Commission for Turkish Reparations provided for by the Convention of November 23, 1923, has now been set up, and is holding its preliminary meetings in Paris. M. Clément-Simon, the French member, formerly Minister at Belgrade, is acting as the first President. The Italian member is Commendatore Diego Tripepi, formerly Italian judge in Constantinople, whilst the British member is Mr. H. Ernest Garle.

Information will shortly be forthcoming as to the place of the permanent sittings of the Commission and the methods to be adopted by claimants for the purpose of bringing their claims before it. In the meanwhile it may be of interest to remind claimants that, whilst the Treaty of Lausanne and the subsidiary documents forming the Turkish peace settlement make provision regarding such questions as pre-war debts, taxes, property, rights and interests, pre-war contracts, concessions, and prescriptions, it is the Convention of November 23, 1923, which deals with the question of reparations, with which the Inter-Allied Assessment Commission is solely concerned, and intending claimants are recommended to study that Convention in order to ascertain in respect of what damage they are entitled to claim. The Convention is published by H.M. Stationery Office, and copies can be procured directly from them or through any bookseller in Great Britain.

As the powers possessed by the Inter-Allied Assessment Commission in awarding compensation cover a wider field than those of the late Royal Commission on Suffering and Damage by Enemy Action, it is probable that in many cases claimants may have to make fresh claims. They are therefore recommended to refresh their memories as to their former claims, and in this connection it is believed that the Inter-Allied Assessment Commission will provide machinery to enable claimants to refer to documents submitted in connection with their former claims which may no longer be in their possession.

Furness Withy and Co. announce that warrants for the dividend on the Ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending October 31, free of tax, will be posted on October 31 to shareholders registered on October 13.

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CHESS.

BY "CARO-KANN."

The general meeting of the Metropolitan Chess Club will take place this evening. The club is holding its usual tournaments, entries for which must be made by October 30.

A number of matches took place on Saturday, the most important of which was the semi-final for the county championship between Surrey and Yorkshire, which was played at St. Bride Institute. Yorkshire's team included Mr. H. E. Atkins and Mr. F. D. Yates. The final score was 7½ to 3½ in Surrey's favour, with five games unfinished, and it is thought that the match will result in a win for Surrey by a narrow margin.

The following game was played in the British Championship at Southport between Mr. F. D. Yates (White) and Mr. H. E. Atkins (Black), and is specially interesting because of the adoption by Mr. Atkins of the Caro-Kann defence:—1, P—K4, P—QB3; 2, P—Q4, P—Q4; 3, QKt—B3 (a), P x P; 4, Kt x P, KKt—B3; 5, Kt x Kt (ch), KP x Kt (b); 6, Kt—B3, B—Q3; 7, B—K2, O—O; 8, O—O, R—K; 9, P—B4, Kt—Q2; 10, B—Q2, Kt—B; 11, R—K, B—Kt5; 12, P—Q5, P—QB4 (c); 13, QR—B, Kt—Kt3; 14, P—Kt4, P x P (d); 15, P—B5, B—B5; 16, R—B4, B x B; 17, Q x B, B x Kt; 18, P x B (e), P—QR4; 19, QR—B, Q—Q2; 20, Q—Q4, QR—Q; 21, QR—Q, R—K4; 22, B—B4, R—Kt4 (ch); 23, K—B, Q—R6 (ch); 24, K—K2, R—K4 (ch); 25, K—Q2, Q x BP; 26, K—B2, P—K5; 27, K—Kt, P—R3; 28, P—Q6, Q—B4 (ch); 29, B—Q3, Q—B5; 30, R—K4, Q—B6; 31, R—QB, P—B4; 32, R x R, Kt x R; 33, B—Kt5, Kt—B3; 34, B x Kt, P x B; 35, Q x P, Q x P; 36, Q—Kt6, R—KB; 37, P—Q7, Q—Q7; 38, Q—B7, P—R6; 39, Q—Kt7, Q—Q6 (ch); 40, R—B2, Q—Q8 (ch); 41, R—B, Q—Q6 (ch) (f).

(a) Possibly the most promising line for White is:—P x P; P x P; 4, P—QB4; Kt—QB3; 5, Kt—QB3.

(b) There is a division of opinion as to which Pawn it is best to make the capture with. The text move gives greater freedom, but White's Queen's side Pawns are liable to become dangerous. Capturing with the Knight's Pawn gives Black a strong centre, but a rather more cramped position.

(c) As White is bound to obtain a passed Pawn, this is better than P x P, for now the White Pawn at Q5 will serve Black as a kind of protection while preparing an attack against the K side.

(d) P—Kt3 holding the centre, would seem to be preferable.

(e) If B x B, R x R; 19, Q x R, Kt—K4, with good prospects.

(f) This was the position at the adjournment, and on continuing, Black, two Pawns up, won easily, for there is now little left for White to do but wait for the inevitable.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended September 20 amounted to £E10,645, making the total from April 1 £E130,268.

The *Central European Observer* states that this year's tobacco crop in Yugoslavia promises to be an excellent one, and a large surplus will be available for export. There are also in hand considerable stocks from previous years—320,000 kilogrammes of the 1922 crop, and some 5,000,000 kilogrammes of last year's, including both cigarette and pipe tobacco in different grades of quality from ordinary to fine select. It is expected that, in view of the good quality of Yugoslavian tobacco and the low transport costs, the Hungarian Tobacco Régie will this year make large purchases in Yugoslavia instead of, as hitherto, in Turkey and Bulgaria.

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Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

BALKAN MARKETS FOR MOTORS.

Since writing last week on the importance of Near Eastern markets for motors, and urging British manufacturers to spare no efforts to cater for these outlets, I have received an American Consular report which throws such an interesting light on the subject and, so to speak, emphasises what I have written, that I propose to pay considerable attention to it. It is a report on ten "lesser markets" for motors, and it is pointed out that "while these markets individually are not large at present, they present collectively an interesting situation for development, both immediate and future." Now if I were to ask some British manufacturers if it were likely that Near Eastern countries figured prominently among these ten "lesser markets," I should probably be met with a very positive negative. Such is the view taken of the Near East as a whole as a trade outlet in some quarters. It will surprise those who are of this way of thinking that the Near East does figure largely among these markets, and particularly that those Near Eastern countries which are included are probably just those which, on account of the prevailing conditions and the adverse exchanges, are regarded as holding out least prospects for trade development. Actually the ten markets include Roumania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia. That, be it noted, is the American viewpoint, and as America is the chief competitor that British motor manufacturers have to fear, and as American manufacturers have to face even greater handicaps than British firms, the view ought to carry considerable weight with firms who have hitherto regarded these markets as impossible.

Some of our firms will probably take the attitude that all this is very well, but that it is, after all, merely generalisation, and that it would be more interesting to have the actual facts as regards the recent trade with these markets. Well, the facts bear out the view that the ten markets in question are gradually improving. For the first half of this year the trade done by America in motor products almost equalled the total for the whole of 1923. That is sufficiently illuminating, and it is interesting to note that the report adds that "greatly increased sales are apparently dependent only upon that stabilisation in currency and credit which appears close at hand as conditions improve in Central Europe." In short, the markets do exist for cars, and a fair trade is being done now, the volume of which promises to be greatly increased in the near future, and it would be incredible that British firms should pay no attention to these markets while their American rivals are now carefully preparing the ground so as to be able to take the fullest advantage of the commercial expansion that is coming.

Turning to the trade statistics, in the first six months of this year America exported to Roumania 176 motors, as compared with 81 in the whole of 1923. Yugoslavia, in the first half of 1924, took 23 motors and 21 motor-cycles, as compared with 6 motors and 18 motor-cycles in 1923, and 16 motors and 3 motor-cycles in 1922. These totals are promising enough, and indicate very forcibly the progressive improvement that is going on in these markets. With regard to the Roumanian market, some interesting comments are made in the report. "The market for automotive products is attractive in Roumania at present," it is stated, "despite the fact that existing economic conditions are not entirely satisfactory. The principal factor favouring the automobile trade is the availability and low cost of gasoline, which retails at 14 cents per gallon, for Roumania now ranks sixth among the petroleum-producing countries of the world. Imports of automobiles into Roumania are not restricted in any way by law or regulation, but the general economic situation and instability of credit militate against extensive business. Registrations of motor vehicles in the country on January 1, 1924, included approximately 7,500 passenger cars, 2,250 motor trucks, and 550 motor-cycles, almost one-half of the total being in Bucharest. Twenty-five per cent. of this number is said to have been added in 1923."

It would seem obvious that if America can increase her trade in motors and motor-cycles in the Balkan countries, as the figures I have quoted make it evident that she is doing, there can be no reason why British motor manufacturers should not do likewise. If they will only enter these markets and cater for them thoroughly I am certain that the results they will achieve in a comparatively short time will astonish them. There are two essentials for their success. They must select the right type of car for the Balkans, one which will meet the special difficulties there, and they must also pay the fullest attention to the question of bringing their products before potential purchasers by the right kind of publicity.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. report as follows for the week ended September 27 :—

The arrivals of sultanas in the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are estimated at 24,000 tons, and the sales to date are put at 20,950 tons.

The sultana market is very firm. Buying has been active all the week to cover heavy end of September engagements. There is a fair quantity of fruit sold forward for October, which is likely to give a backbone to the market.

The total sales of figs to date are 128,500 bags, against sales at September 26 of 72,500 bags. There is a tendency to increase the estimate of the yield to over 200,000 bags. Prices keep steady.

The production of the Steaua Romana, Bucharest, for September was 24,110 tons, as compared with 18,384 tons during September, 1923.

The Burma Railways Company recommends a final dividend of £1 5s. per cent., together with a bonus of £2 10s. per cent., both subject to tax, payable, together with the guaranteed interest of £1 5s. per cent., less tax, on Jan. 1, making in all £8 10s. per cent. for the year 1923-24.

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THE ROLE OF RAILWAYS IN INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT.

Need for Development.

We give below some extracts from the address of the Viceroy at the Railway Conference at Simla on October 9 :—

"Apart from my keen interest in railways generally, on account of their connection with development and progress in India, circumstances place me in an even more intimate relation in regard to them. In India a very large portion of the railway system is owned by Government, and, in consequence, my Government is vitally interested and directly concerned in the efficient and economical management of the railway system. The difficulties which have had to be faced during the past war period are well known, and I need not explore their causes. The brief boom of 1919-20 was succeeded by a period of severe trade depression. There was leeway to make up in repairing wastages, while the cost of material had risen in an unprecedented fashion, and the wages bill had swelled, owing to the abnormal increase in prices and cost of living. In 1921-22 and 1922-23 the railways were unable to pay interest charges and a situation of great difficulty had arisen. The only solution of the problem was to introduce a policy of retrenchment and rigorous economy in working charges, while at the same time making a reasonable increase in rates and fares. My Government greatly appreciate the loyal manner in which the railway administrations and their staff co-operated in the execution of this policy. The fruit of their labours is already apparent. Last year the railway made a net contribution to the State of more than six crores, and paid a net return on capital invested of more than 5 per cent. It is too early to prophesy as regards the present year, and it is necessary to make allowance for the damage—not yet fully estimated—caused by the recent disastrous floods; but the prospects are hopeful, and, with the gross receipts up to the end of last August in excess of those of the corresponding period of last year by 309 lakhs, a confident view may be taken. I have on various occasions expressed my opinion that a slow but steady revival of trade is taking place, and the railway returns, which act as the barometer of trade, point to the indicator moving in that direction. The capital expenditure of the last few years is beginning to take effect in increased capacity and better facilities for handling traffic. In addition, in spite of greatly increased traffic and earnings, the ordinary working expenses for the early portion of the year stand at a lower figure than last year. The fall in prices is, without doubt, a contributing factor, but the main credit must be given to the agents and their staff, without whose continuous efforts and close attention to economy these satisfactory results could not have been secured. Some portion of the improvement effected may also be attributed to the process of overhauling the railway organisation in the Central Government. The Ackworth Committee and the Inchcape Committee offered my Government valuable advice both on the financial and administrative side of railway policy. The suggestions of the Inchcape Committee have borne fruit in resulting economies without loss of efficiency. The reorganisation of the Railway Department, which formed the subject of one of the recommendations of the Ackworth Committee, has been energetically carried out by Sir Charles Innes. The Railway Board has been strengthened by the inclusion of a financial adviser and by addition to the staff of a number of technical officers and, under Mr. Hindley's able guidance, the Central Directorate is now approximating more and more to the ideal of a general staff for railways. Time will not permit of my dwelling on all the benefits which have been derived from these new activities, but the public may rest assured that, in the Railway Board, they now possess a scientific and practical body, constantly engaged in the study of the railway problem of India as a whole, and in devising improvements and developments on a comprehensive scale. Great as the progress has been, nevertheless, owing to the size of India, development necessarily lags behind the needs of the continent. I am tempted to dwell at length on the fascinating subject of productive expenditure in India. In my view, after the completion of the rehabilitation of the existing railway system, a well-considered plan for the extension of cheap but efficient railway transport is a primary necessity in India, and no step is more likely to conduce to an increase in trade and industry and in the general prosperity of the country. I am glad to be able to state that we have already made some progress in this direction : projects for nearly 1,000 miles of new lines have been sanctioned, and little difficulty is anticipated in future in finding money for new projects of a remunerative nature."

"The most comprehensive change to which immediate effect is to be given, arising out of the consideration of the Ackworth Committee's Report. lies in the domain of finance. In the past in this aspect the Railway Department occupied the same position as that of other departments of the Government of India. In spite of the possession of special powers and of the theoretical advantage of treatment on a commercial working basis, in practice the Railway Department was crippled for development purposes by the restrictions inherent in the system. Railways depended for finance upon money voted each year, and the net earning of the railways went into the general Exchequer. I need not dwell on the weak points of this system. The inevitable tendency, especially apparent during the war, was to expect railways to contribute more than their just share to general revenues, and to class the powers of recovery through railways as a potentiality for adding to revenue from taxation. This tendency killed the incentive to economy in working and continuity in railway policy, and definitely operated to discourage initiative in commercial management and real increase in efficiency in the public service obtained by results in the working of the railways themselves. The Ackworth Committee's recommendations put the situation in a new light, and directed a fresh angle of vision towards the principle involved in the system. A step in

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advance was made when, with the approval of the Legislative Assembly, a capital programme was guaranteed to the railways over a period of years. The spirit of reform progressed to a logical conclusion during the last session of the Legislature, when a convention received approval separating railway finance from general finance. I congratulate the Assembly on the wisdom of the decision arrived at. For a time during the debates on the subject the decision was in jeopardy. Non-official amendments were moved, the purpose of which was to subject the change to other conditions wholly unconnected with the principle involved. Had these conditions, which included the complete subordination of all initiative in executive action of the Executive Government to the Legislature, been pressed, Government would have been obliged to have abandoned the project for separation. It would not have been possible, as a condition of the latter, to have given up a constitutional principle of first importance. Fortunately, wiser counsels prevailed. I desire to express my appreciation of the able services of the officers who presented the Government case, and of the public spirit of those members of the Assembly who assisted in bringing about an acceptance of the proposals. I realise that in some cases their support was given to a Government measure of benefit to the interests of India, notwithstanding political differences with Government on other subjects. The resolution as finally framed and passed represents, on the chief point involved in the debate, a compromise honourable to both parties in the discussion. Government has agreed to a provision by which the Legislative Assembly are at liberty to terminate the arrangement, in the event of a State-managed line being handed over to a company against the advice of the Assembly, while the main question of a convention to separate railway from general finance has been accepted. The matter now rests on a proper basis. The importance of the reform cannot be overestimated. The State will continue to receive a fair and constant return from the money spent on railways, while communications will no longer run the risk of being taxed unfairly through the railways. General revenues may be expected to gain from stabilisation of railway revenues. The railway administration will now possess a real incentive to economy in working on commercial lines. Proper arrangements can now be made for depreciation and for building up railway reserves. Continuity and regular growth in railway policy has become possible; it is hoped that in due course the public will pay less for the existing service of the railways, while railway facilities will be largely increased without addition to the burden of general taxation."

"The separation of railway finance which, within limits, constitutes the agents as masters in their own house, increases their responsibility. Each year, whatever the conditions, the contribution has to be paid into general revenues. Any deficit which may occur cannot merely be passed on to those revenues. So long as the convention subsists, the agents have to depend on their own resources and contrive to succeed within these limitations. The closest supervision and most careful attention to economy and efficiency in working will, in consequence, be called for. I appreciate the difficulties of the task which lies ahead and the strain which the agents and their staff will be called upon to bear, but I am confident that the basis on which railway finances have now been placed is sound in principle, and, in view of the success of the efforts of the last two years, I have no doubt that the fullest reliance can be placed on the railway administrations to produce the most satisfactory results as the outcome of their new responsibilities and the wider field of initiative now before them. I know that the task will be undertaken in the right spirit, and that those engaged in it will derive encouragement from the great importance to India of the duties they perform. If they succeed, as I am confident they will, I shall be the first to rejoice with them in the issue of their labours and to offer my contribution of praise to their success.

"I have dwelt on the great part railways have played in the development of India; how they have spread civilisation and material prosperity, and changed the economic and social life of the Indian people as they have advanced; and how they have, in a great measure, contributed to the conditions which make it possible to-day to think of India as a united entity with common national aspirations. Those who have been for many years connected with railway administration in India can look back with satisfaction on the steady course of this advance. They can recall with pride the practical difficulties which have been overcome; the administrative problems at one time appearing insoluble which have been solved; and the technical triumphs, by which bridges have spanned the great rivers of India and baffling gradients have been surmounted. Their thoughts naturally turn towards what the future has in store. As far as it has been possible to contrive, the necessary machinery for the development of railways has been set up, and the ground has been cleared for expansion; but this expansion, from which nothing but benefit can accrue to India, must depend in a large measure on the peaceful and steady progress

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of the people of India, with which the railways are so closely bound up and to which they directly react. It is my earnest hope that all that tends to retard that progress may be eliminated, that the distressing communal differences, unhappily so prominent at the present time and so fatal to moral and material well-being, may be composed. It is the unceasing preoccupation of myself and Governments to discover means to allay the intensity and, I deeply regret to say, the bitterness of feeling between members of the two great communities. No graver problem confronts India at this moment; none deserves closer attention; none more urgently calls for the whole-hearted co-operation and goodwill of all sections of Indian opinion. I also trust that all influences, unfortunately now existing, which operate to set back the ordered course of the constitutional advance of this great country towards the goal of responsible self-government in the Empire may disappear, and that the day may not be far distant when a keen sense of public duty and a desire to serve the true interests of India will rise superior to all sectional considerations and lead to union in whole-hearted efforts for the progress and prosperity of her people."

THE TRIBUTE LOANS.

In the House of Commons, on October 9, Sir F. Wise asked what was the position of the bondholders in the Egyptian Tribute.

Mr. Ponsonby: The three loans in question are the guaranteed loan of 1855 and the loans of 1891 and 1894. The interest on the loan of 1855 is guaranteed jointly and severally by the British and French Governments, and accordingly the bondholders will continue to receive payment of the interest due to them. The loans of 1891 and 1894 are not guaranteed. As regards all three loans, His Majesty's Government consider that the contentions of the Egyptian Government are entirely inadmissible, and are considering the whole matter in consultation with the representatives of financial interests in this country and with the other Governments concerned.

BULGARIAN EXTERNAL TRADE.

The amount of the external trade of Bulgaria during July last, compared with that of July last year, has been as follows:—Imports: 463,101,244 levas (£772,000), as against 323,056,086 levas (£540,000). Exports: 228,113,921 levas (£380,200), as against 93,729,955 levas (£156,216). For the month of July Great Britain exported to Bulgaria goods for an amount of £81,362, as against £79,167 last year.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

South Indian Railway.

The report of the South Indian Railway for the year ended March 31 last states that the gross earnings were Rs. 5,07,03,923, while the working expenses were Rs. 2,89,08,724, the net earnings being Rs. 2,17,95,199. The company's share of surplus profits for the year 1923-24 amounted to Rs. 7,10,625, amount retained in India to meet Indian income-tax and super tax for 1924-25 Rs. 1,07,910, balance remitted to London Rs. 6,02,715, at average exchange of 1s. 4.9d. per rupee, realising £42,441. In addition to the guaranteed interest of 1¾ per cent. for the half-year to June 30, 1924, an interim dividend of 2 per cent. from surplus profits was paid, less income-tax, on July 1. The board now recommend that for the year 1924 there be paid from surplus profits on January 1, 1925, a final dividend of 2½ per cent., making, with the guaranteed interest of 1¾ per cent., a total payment for the half-year ending December 31, 1924, of 4¼ per cent., less income-tax. The total distribution for the year will then be 8 per cent. (4½ per cent. from surplus profits and 3½ per cent. from guaranteed interest).

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Semi-Diesel Engines, etc.—The Director-General, State Domains Administration (Commercial Service), Savoy House, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of four semi-Diesel engines and four centrifugal pumps. November 1.

Paint.—The Main Roads and Bridges Department of the Egyptian Ministry of Communications invites tenders for the supply of 45 metric tons of paint for the Cairo bridges. —November 10.

Diesel Motor.—The Egyptian Government invite tenders for the supply of a Diesel or Semi-Diesel motor of 30 h.p.—November 12.

Looms, etc.—The Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of (1) Looms and preparatory machines required for the Trades School at Mansûra. (2) Machines for rug factory at Assiout. November 15.

Leather.—The Egyptian Ministry of Education invites tenders for the supply of leather required for the model workshops and trades schools of the Ministry. November 15. (D.O.T.)

Soap. — The Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 110 tons of hard soap to Egyptian Army Supply Stores, Tura. December 2.

Railway Sleepers.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of wooden railway sleepers. December 16.

Turkey.

Galvanometers.—The Turkish Posts and Telegraphs Administration invite tenders for the supply of thirty galvanometers.—November 1.

Yugoslavia.

X-Ray Apparatus—A firm of dealers in scientific instruments and electro-medical apparatus in Novi Sad are desirous of receiving catalogues and prices of X-ray apparatus from British manufacturers. (D.O.T.)

The production of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended October 3 was as follows:—Gemsah, two tons; Hurghada, 3,202 tons.

The production of crude oil by the British Burmah Petroleum Company and the Rangoon Oil Company, Ltd., for September amounted to 58,121 barrels.

The surcharge levied in Yugoslavia, when Customs duties are paid in paper or silver, has been increased as from October 1 from 900 to 1,000 per cent. Duties when paid in silver or paper currency are now therefore payable at the rate of 11 silver or paper dinars to each gold dinar of the tariff.

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Shipping Intelligence.

BUNKERING FACILITIES AT CASABLANCA.

The market for coal in the French zone of Morocco is not a very extensive one, except for use in vessels. The greater part of the population are Moors, who use charcoal almost entirely for fuel purposes, while charcoal and wood are used by the European and Moroccan Jews (says an American Consular report). There is very little manufacturing done in the district, making only a small demand for coal for such purposes. Most of the electric plants, which constitute the main industrial group, use oil for the generation of power.

Although there are seven ports of varying importance on the coast of French Morocco, Casablanca is the only one at which fuel supplies are obtainable in any appreciable quantity, and even here the facilities are far from adequate. Few, if any, vessels rely on this port for the replenishment of their coal supply. Nearly all of the steamers making this a regular port of call come from French, Spanish, or Portuguese ports, and carry with them fuel supplies for the entire trip.

There is a small Government-controlled coal depôt in the port, the supply of coal being mainly in the form of briquettes, and the maximum amount on hand at any one time is about 2,000 metric tons. This is the form of coal used on the narrow-gauge railways connecting the coast cities with interior points. The amount usually on hand and actually stored in this depôt is from 1,200 to 1,400 tons. From the principal dealers small and varying amounts of anthracite and Cardiff coal may be obtained.

Coal is put aboard ship in the harbour from lighters, the fuel being handled in baskets. The speed of delivery varies according to the number of vessels in the harbour and the consequent availability of lighters. Under the most favourable circumstances 600 tons of coal can be put aboard in a day, but ordinarily the rate is from 200 to 250 tons per day.

SHIPBUILDING BY VICKERS, LTD.

Launch of New Motor Vessel.

An interesting launch took place at the Naval Construction Works, Barrow-in-Furness, on October 10, when Messrs. Vickers, Limited, launched the motor vessel Moveria, which was designed and is being built by them to the order of the Donaldson Line, Limited. The launching ceremony was performed by Mrs. Donaldson, the wife of Mr. Norman P. Donaldson, a director of the Donaldson Line, Limited, and the Donaldson South American Line, Limited.

The Moveria, which has a dead weight capacity of 7,500 tons, has been designed to carry general cargo and cattle and, in addition, large refrigerated rooms have been provided for dealing with meat. A single heavy oil engine of the Vickers type provides the propulsive power, giving the vessel a speed of 11½ knots, while the auxiliaries, including the refrigerating plant, are steam-driven, three oil-fired cylindrical boilers being provided for the latter purpose. The overall length of the vessel is 398 feet, her breadth 51 ft. 6 ins., and when fully loaded she will draw close on 27 feet.

The hull construction is generally on the transverse frame system, but a special feature is the double bottom, built on the Vickers-Wingate longitudinal braced frame system, which, while fully maintaining the strength of the hull, results in a lighter and more open construction than is usual.

The accommodation for officers and crew is amidships, steam heating being provided on a liberal scale for use in extreme winter conditions. The captain's rooms are on the boat deck forward, in close proximity to the bridge and wireless telegraphy office, the deck and engine room officers being quartered on the bridge deck in deck houses around the engine casing. The saloon is amidships at the forward end of the bridge deck. The crew's accommodation is on the port side of the bridge deck, quarters for the cattlemen being on the opposite side.

The vessel has three continuous decks, a fourth deck being fitted in No. 2 hold, which, with No. 4 hold and the 'tween decks of these holds, is insulated, the total insulated space being over 170,000 cubic feet. General cargo is carried in the remaining holds, Nos. 1 and 5, which are fitted with a centre line bulkhead to suit them for carrying grain. The whole of the upper 'tween decks and the 'tween decks over Nos. 1 and 5 holds are fitted with cattle stalls, and these, with emergency stalls on the upper deck, permit of over 600 live cattle being carried. Six large ports are fitted in the ship's side for the passage of the cattle in or out of the ship.

The special water tanks for the cattle are under the engine-room, in close proximity to the fresh water for ship's use and for machinery purposes. Water ballast is carried in the end double tanks, and oil fuel or water ballast in the remaining double bottom tanks. Oil fuel is also carried in side tanks amidships, the total fuel capacity being over 900 tons.

The ship carries a complete set of rapid cargo handling appliances. Two hatches, with insulated hatch trunks, are fitted to each insulated hold. Fourteen steam winches, 7 in. x 12 in. size, are fitted for handling the cargo. The derricks are fitted to the two masts and to derrick posts, two of these on the foremast being of 10 tons capacity, the remainder being suited to 5-ton lifts.

The steering gear is of the Wilson Pirrie type mounted on the upper deck aft. Telemotor gear leading from the bridge and standby steering position aft, together with the emergency gear for operation by the after winches, is provided. Two steel masts with telescopic topmasts for use in the Manchester Ship Canal are fitted. Both signalling wireless and direction finding wireless gear are provided.

The main machinery is of particular interest, being a single eight-cylinder oil engine of the four-stroke, single-acting, solid injection type, with

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California, Oct. 25.	*Scindia, Jan. 16.
*Circassia, Nov. 18.	*Massilia, Jan. 30.
*Olympia, Nov. 28.	*Elysia, Feb. 11.

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cylinders 30 ins. in diameter and of 45 ins. stroke. Developing 2,700 brake horse-power at 110 revolutions per minute, this engine is the largest of its type afloat. It embodies many improvements in detail suggested by experience in tanker service of similar but smaller engines built by Messrs. Vickers, Limited. The main difference in principle between this Vickers engine and the ordinary air injection engine is that compressed air is used for starting and reversing alone, so that when at sea the separate steam-driven compressors are not in use. The engine drives, by means of gearing, its own circulating and forced lubrication pumps, together with a bilge pump.

Three boilers 10 ft. 6 ins. long x 10 ft. 6 ins. diameter, with double furnaces fitted for oil firing, and each having a heating surface of 1,098 square feet. are fitted at the aft end of the engine room for driving the remaining auxiliaries, including a 15 k.w. electric generator and the standby pumps. An 18-ton fresh water distiller, together with a 30-ton evaporator, and a contraflo condenser, are fitted on the port side of the engine room, both of the latter being of Vickers' make.

The refrigerating plant, supplied by Messrs Hall, is of the carbon dioxide duplex type, the gas compressors being driven by a compound horizontal steam engine. An independent pump in the engine room provides the cooling water. The brine is circulated by three independent duplex pumps, the system being arranged so that freezing, chilling, and thawing may be carried out at the same time in different compartments.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. California for Bombay (Liverpool, October 24).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Media for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 18).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 22).

British India Line.—S.s. Margha for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 24); s.s. Dumana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 25).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Poona for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 30).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Falernian for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Galatz, and Braila (London, October 18).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Tramore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 18); s.s. Sycamore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 5). (The last steamer of the season to Galatz and Braila.) S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 22).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Naldera for Bombay (London, October 17); s.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 18).

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895).
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and General Re-insurance Company "BALKAN."
Capital: Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000.
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

GREECE'S BUILDING PROGRAMME.

An extensive building programme has been in progress in Greece for nearly a year as a result of the practical suspension of building operations throughout the decade that Greece was at war, the extreme instability of the drachma, and the advent of more than 1,000,000 Christian refugees from Turkish territory (says an American Consular report). This building programme was encouraged by measures admitting, duty free, materials for the construction of refugee shelters and exempting new buildings from taxation for a period of twenty-five years.

By far the larger part of the domiciles under construction in Greece are of stone, cement, and adobe, but even the cheaper buildings require some lumber. Numbers of palatial residences also are being constructed in the Athens district, and these require the best grades of lumber. The demand for American lumber consists almost entirely of southern yellow pine, which is used for building construction and some small amount for shipbuilding.

Swedish lumber occupies the first rank in the Greek imports of floorings. While the total annual imports of southern yellow pine are estimated at from 400 to 500 standards (792,000 to 990,000 ft.), the Swedish lumber imported every year amounts to about 2,000 standards (3,960,000 ft.), due largely to the fact that it is approximately 50 per cent. cheaper than the American wood. Railroad sleepers previously imported from Turkey are now being obtained from Slavonia.

Greek imports of building lumber (shipbuilding excluded) amounted to about 92,000,000 ft. during 1923, as compared with 72,000,000 ft. in the previous year, Roumania and Yugoslavia being the principal sources of supply. Imports of shooks amounted to about 1,900,000 ft. in 1923, as compared with 8,000,000 ft. in 1922. While in the latter year this stock was obtained principally from Germany, Sweden, and Italy, in 1923 the first two countries were eliminated, Roumania and Italy supplying the major portion.

The domestic production of lumber is of no importance, being less than one-tenth of the domestic consumption. Euboea and certain islands of the northern Ægean produce small quantities of pine, but the exact quantity of this production is difficult to estimate.

Emigrants from Yugoslavia during the first three months of this year totalled 5,686, of whom 2,875 were agricultural labourers.

THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the next ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the South Indian Railway Company, Limited, will be held at the Offices of the Company, 91, Petty France, Westminster, S.W.1, on Wednesday, the 22nd October, 1924, at 12 noon, for the purpose of receiving the Directors' Report and Statements of Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1924, and for the transaction of the ordinary general business of the Company.

The Transfer Books will be closed from Wednesday, the 17th, to Wednesday, the 31st day of December, 1924, both days inclusive, for the preparation of the half-yearly Warrants.

Transfers will not be received at the office while the books remain closed.

The Warrants payable on and after the 1st January, 1925, will be forwarded to the Proprietors on the 31st December, 1924.

By order,
ALEX. MUIRHEAD,
Managing Director.

Company's Offices:—
91, Petty France, Westminster, S.W.1.
8th October, 1924.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Quiet Tone Prevails.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 8 :—

Egyptian Futures.—A very firm undertone has been displayed by this market during the past week, and prices show considerable appreciation at the time of writing from those ruling at the date of our last report. Generally speaking, the underlying strength can be attributed to further "short" covering, the steadiness of the American markets, and the very large discount at which our contract still runs under spot values. Whilst trade reports continue to be favourable, spinners are still shy of entering into commitments of weight; in fact, in our opinion, it looks as if they had let their stocks run down to a dangerously low margin, and the probability is that should the Bureau report this evening turn out to be of a "bullish" character, a certain amount of covering will be forced into the market from this quarter. Judging from many recent half-yearly reports published, it would appear as if textiles had enjoyed a fair measure of prosperity, and it is doubly unfortunate in view of this that a threatened interference with the normal course of business should crop up in the shape of a General Election.

The Alexandria market has shown a very steady tone throughout the week, and has rather more than reflected the advances that have taken place at this side, with the result that, contrary to the general opinion, the parity between the two markets has again widened out, thus making our contract less of a "bear" proposition than ever. The September report issued by the Alexandria General Produce Association is on the whole rather disappointing, and indicates ginning yields inferior to those generally expected. This means that private estimates will probably have to be revised down to about seven million kantars. Upper Egyptians appear to have been more adversely affected than Sakel, and our own private reports on the last-named growth are to the effect that the crop is an improvement as regards quality on last season.

Referring back to our remarks of last week regarding the proposed new contracts, the alterations have now been practically confirmed by the Association. The new options will come into force for deliveries November, 1925, onwards; trading in same will commence on the 1st of next month.

Since writing the above, the publication of the American Bureau Report has caused a sharp break, and prices have reacted down to the level obtaining at the time of our last report. The recent elimination of the short interest has certainly left the market in a weaker technical position, and with prices now starting to go in their favour, it is quite likely that the trade will continue their present policy of limiting their commitments to the barest possible margin. Whilst the decline will probably be carried further for the time being, it hardly appears a sound proposition to advise sales in our market with the contract so far below spot values and quite out of parity with Alexandria.

Egyptian Spot.—Trade has been somewhat quieter during the past week, the imminence of another Bureau report, and the home political crisis, making spinners very cautious in their buying. A good inquiry has continued from day to day, and spinners have kept themselves well posted with market values which, on the whole, have remained very steady, with an upward tendency. The feature of the week has been the eagerness with which Sakel cotton (for immediate or close at hand delivery) has been sought for, thus confirming what has already been widely suspected, namely, that the majority of spinners have been running very short of cotton. Not for a long time has so much cotton been sold whilst still on the water. Fully Good Fair to Good has been the quality mostly in demand, and 25.00d. to 26.00d. indicates roughly the range of prices paid, though up to 26.75d. was recorded on one occasion. The result of all this buying afloat has been that in spite of the arrival of several ships, the Sakel scarcity on our market has hardly been relieved at all.

Some lots of new crop Pilion have arrived, and the cotton has found considerable favour in certain quarters, being of good length, grade, and lustre. To-day, quite a flood of inquiries for Pilion cotton appeared. We do not desire to mislead our friends in this connection, and this sudden inquiry must not be construed as the commencement of a new era for Pilion cotton in this country. What is now being marketed is, of course, the cream of the crop, and owing to the temporary Sakel scarcity, many spinners are willing to test it in the hope that it will help them to tide over a short, but difficult period. On a reasonable supply of Sakel coming to hand, and this should not now be far off, the chances are that the majority of them will drop it again immediately. The remnants of last season's Sakel cotton, of the Fair to Barely Good Fair variety, continue to be pressed for sale, and it is very difficult to make any headway except at ruinous prices.

Of Uppers, a good supply now seems available, and the basis has shown signs of easing lately. Local quotations are decidely misleading; for example, Good Uppers here are quoted to-day at 19.05d., but they can be freely purchased on the spot at 18.50d. or even less. Business in Sudan Sakel has been quieter at steady rates. White Sudan has been in request at about 100 points on American, but only a small business has been transacted. C.i.f. business has produced a good deal of inquiry, but here again the volume of actual trade shows a falling off on the week. It is significant that practically none of the inquiry extends beyond November shipment. Forwardings to spinners for week ending 3rd inst. have been returned as 7,872 bales. Estimated sales 1,300 Egypts, and about 500 Sudan. Quotations of Sakellaridis have advanced 40 points, whilst those of Uppers and Brown are 5 points higher on the week. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis to-day, 25.45d.

The production of the Dacia Romano Petroleum Syndicate for September amounted to 515 tons.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway for the week ended September 6 amounted to Rs. 8,91,466, making the total from April 1 Rs. 2,15,29,411. For the corresponding periods of 1923 the totals were Rs. 9,41,462 and Rs. 2,25,81,100.

TEXTILES.

IF you wish to obtain your Textile goods from England at the lowest possible prices, communicate with K. JEBARA, 25, Princess Street, Manchester. (Established 1887).

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THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Firm and Active.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended October 2 state :—

Futures.—The market during the past week has been very firm and active; since last Thursday prices have secured the following advances :— Sakellaridis : $2.15 up for November, $2.30 up for January, $2.30 up for March; Ashmouni : $1.90 up for October, $2.10 up for December, $2.05 up for February. This week's advance is mainly due to speculative purchases induced by the sustained strength of New York. We do not think that buyers abroad have shown any willingness to follow the rise, and the larger turnover of business on the spot market must be attributed rather to the fulfilment of old contracts than to fresh business with spinners. There are rumours that it is the Government's intention to receive October tenders; we do not think there is any truth in this. At the first October tender 2,000 kantars dockets were issued, which were received by exporters. In view of the rise, the Government has abstained from buying spot cotton during the week. The difference between November Sakel and October Ashmouni has further widened during the week, and now stands at $10.25; the premium of Sakel over American remains about unchanged, whilst that of Uppers over American has somewhat narrowed. We are of opinion that the prices of the latter two varieties will come nearer together as the season advances. The week's receipts amount to 301,813 kantars, against exports 176,237 kantars; the stock stands at 753,760 kantars.

Spot.—We have had a week of active markets at Minet el Bassal, and sales for the five business days amount to about 20,900 bales, of which we estimate 9,700 bales Sakel, 6,400 bales Uppers, 4,100 bales Zagora, and 700 bales other varieties. The Government has not operated in the spot market this week. Arrivals are large, and the crop is moving freely from all districts.

Sakellaridis.—Business has been done in all grades from Good Fair to Extra. For Fully Good and Extra the premiums have been maintained, but for all other grades they are appreciably cheaper.

Uppers.—A good business has been done in all grades from Good Fair upwards. Prices of spot against contracts are easier for Good and below, but Fully Good maintains its premium. A fair business has been done in Lower Egypt Zagora at about last week's rates.

Various.—A moderate business has been done in White, mainly in the better grades. Prices of spot against contracts are easier for Good and below, but for above Good they are rather dearer. In Pilion a fair business has been done in Fully Good Fair and better. Spot prices against contracts are generally easier. In Brown no business has been reported.

Crop 1924.—Picking is now completed in Upper and Middle Egypt; the average results show a decrease in feddan yield on last year. In the Southern districts of the Delta picking has also been completed, in the Central districts nearly so, whilst in the Northern districts it will be finished in about three weeks' time. The first pickings of Sakel in the Delta have been on an average better than last year, the second pickings about the same. The plants in the Northern districts are still making a little cotton, but this will have little effect on the final results.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Good Inquiry for Cloth.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended October 11 states :—

The American Agricultural Bureau report issued on Wednesday last gave the condition of the crop on the 1st instant at 53.5 per cent., and the estimated yield at 12,449,000 bales. This was decidedly better than had been anticipated, and has caused a revulsion of sentiment in this market, which, after becoming almost reconciled to the impossibility of "shilling cotton," is now cheerfully talking of it once more. Undoubtedly such a state of things, if it materialised, would be a very great advantage to Lancashire, and it is felt that a large business could be transacted on that basis. In the meantime, however, the renewed possibility of lower prices in the near future is causing buyers to continue a hand to mouth policy.

Yarn.—Although the volume of business passing cannot be described as by any means up to the standard of normal times, it is more than sufficient to clear the present output in certain American counts, and there is a decided shortage of them. Under these conditions producers find little difficulty in gradually improving their position, and, although raw cotton is much cheaper on the week, spinners' quotations do not reflect the full extent of the fall. Roughly speaking, whilst American cotton itself is 1d. per lb. cheaper on the week, yarns are approximately only ½d. per lb. lower. The Employers' Federation, however, is still of opinion that the improvement does not yet justify any increase in working hours, although there are complaints of a few firms not adhering to the short time recommendation. Egyptian Spinnings have been in fair request, and the position remains steady.

Cloth.—Quite a good inquiry has been experienced, and in the early days of the week resulting orders were not unsatisfactory. Since the publication of the bureau report, however, there has been considerably more hesitancy on the part of buyers to commit themselves, especially as manufacturers have endeavoured to retain the benefit of cheaper yarns for themselves. India has, of course, been the main source of inquiry, and bookings for Egypt and the Near East are said to have been on quite a good scale.

Raw Cotton.—There is little to add to what has been already mentioned in this connection. Following the bureau report, prices, of course, slumped heavily. Recent weather reports from the United States have been good. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows :—American Middling 14.09, Egyptian Fully Good Fair 25.00.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-97$\frac{5}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	257-259
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	313-317
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	23.40-234.2
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5⅞-1.5$\frac{15}{16}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	92.20-92.30
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	825-835
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	340-350,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5⅞-1.5$\frac{15}{16}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	835-855
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.49⅛-4.49¼
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	85.55-85.65
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	151-151⅞
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	102.70-.80
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	615-620
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	317-320,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	23.35-23.55

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Further Rise in Coffee.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday morning.

Coffee.—A very firm tone has prevailed. Costa Rica at 165s. is unchanged, East India at 142s. is 2s. up, Kenya is 2s. up at 138s., while Santos has gained 2s. at 108s.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair demand. Tate's cubes are 42s. 9d., London granulated is 37s. 10½d., while Lyle's granulated is 38s. 1½d. Foreign descriptions have been dull. West Indian crystallised is unchanged at 35s. 6d., White Java at 35s. 1½d. is 9d. lower, while Czech granulated has been done at 22s. 6d. for November. Futures are firm: November, 20s. 3d.; December, 20s. 1½d.; March, 19s. 10½d.; May, 20s.

Maize.—There has been a fair inquiry La Plata has been done at 46s. 6d. afloat, at 47s. 3d. for November-December, and at 48s. 6d. for January. These rates are substantially in advance of those of the previous week.

Currants.—Good business has continued to be done in this commodity. Vostizzas have again been in special request, while Gulf and Panariti have also been in demand. Prices are considerably lower than a week ago, and the market generally appears to be much steadier.

Sultanas.—The tone has been good, and the position generally is much the same as last week. The feature has been the business done in Cretans.

Figs.—An excellent inquiry has obtained. All the evidence points to the development of demand. Naturals have again been in special request.

Plums.—This commodity has been in fair request, and is now moving off more freely.

Oilcakes.—The market has generally been quite firm. Linseed cake is 5s. up at 280s., cottonseed cake is 5s. lower at 180s., while coconut cake is 20s. up at 240s.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been very firm, Indian being 1s. 3d. up at 24s. 1½d., while La Plata is unchanged at 21s. 10½d. Rapeseed has been firm. Toria is 4½d. up at 24s. 4½d., while real bold Ferozepore is 1s. up at 25s. 10½d. Cottonseed has been strong. Indian is 9½d. up at 11s. 10½d., Egyptian black is 4½d. up at 14s., while Sakellaridis is 7½d. up at 13s. 6d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed oil has been firm, closing 9d. up at 45s. 3d. Rape oil has been firm, with crude 6d. up at 50s., and technical refined 6d. up at 53s. Cotton oil has been steady. Refined common edible is 1s. up at 50s. Egyptian crude is 1s. 6d. up at 44s. 6d., while deodorised is 1s. up at 52s.

SILK PRODUCTION IN SYRIA.

The annual production of silk in Syria is estimated at 445 tons of dry cocoons, practically all of which is exported (says an American Consular report). France takes the major portion, the rest going to Italy. The industry centres around Swedia, Lebanon, and Tripoli. The climate is favourable for silk production, and labour is cheap. Under the direction of French agricultural advisers, the methods of handling and feeding the worms have so much improved that the actual yield of silk from each hatch of eggs is a little more than double the average for pre-war years. With proper cultivation, it is claimed that silk may be produced which is equal to that grown anywhere except in special localities in Europe.

THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN INDIA.

The following communiqué has been issued by the India Office:—

In September the rainfall was heavy in Sind and in certain parts of Central India, Rajputana (East), and the United Provinces, where it was very unevenly distributed; it was above normal in the Punjab and Lower Burma, and was generally sufficient elsewhere, except in Madras, Central Provinces, certain parts of Baluchistan, and Rajputana, where more rain is needed still.

There has been some damage to crops by heavy rains in parts of the United Provinces, Central India, Rajputana, and one district of the Punjab. Serious floods in Bharatpur State have washed away crops over large areas. In Eastern Bengal deep-water paddy in certain low-lying lands suffered from floods, and some damage by local floods has been caused in Bihar and Orissa also. The condition of standing crops, on the whole, is satisfactory, except in flood-affected areas in Madras, Sind, the United Provinces, and in certain tracts of Baluchistan. The paddy harvest yield is good in high-lying land and fair in low-lying land in Madras, and, on the whole, satisfactory in Bengal. Prospects of winter crops are generally good. A decrease of 4 per cent. is estimated in the yield of jute in Bengal, as compared with that of last year, but the quality of fibre is expected to be good. Prospects of elementary sugar cane and cotton crops are generally good, except in the United Provinces, where the cotton crop has fared badly.

The outturn of autumn crops, especially of maize, is considerably below normal in Bihar and Orissa. Food supplies are sufficient, except in parts of Burma, where they are low, but the time till harvest can be tided over. Fodder is scarce in parts of Madras, Bikanir, and the flood-affected areas in Bharatpur. The water supply is sufficient generally. In Madras, irrigation water is generally insufficient, except in the Circars and on the West Coast. The jute market in Bengal is ruling firm. The prices of paddy and rice are higher than last year in Burma, Madras and Assam, are rising in Bengal and in flooded areas in Madras. Otherwise prices are generally stationary, with a tendency to fall in Bombay, the Central Provinces, and Rajputana. Cattle are healthy, except in part of Baluchistan, where anthrax is prevailing among the sheep and goats. Economic conditions generally are satisfactory, and the agricultural outlook is, on the whole, satisfactory.

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CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - - £390,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

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The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - £5,013,834

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Central Office:
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Managing Governors in India:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.

Manager in London:—
S. A. H. SITWELL, Esq.

Authorised Capital - - **Rs. 11.25.00.000**
Paid-up Capital - - **Rs. 5.62.50.000**
Reserve - - - - - **Rs. 4.57.50.000**

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London Branch: 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

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Subscribed Capital ... ... £4,000,000 | **Reserve Fund** £2,750,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

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The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
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RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 18,103,997

The assets include securities worth £800,000, which are valued at Drs. 20,000,000; that is, at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

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The Bank conducts every kind of Banking and Stock Exchange business, and extends special facilities to merchants and traders interested in business with Greece. It acts as Agent for many Foreign Banks. It is specially organised for Exchange transactions, the execution of mail and cable transfers throughout Greece, and for the collection of clean and documentary Drafts and Bills.

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BANK of ATHENS

Head Office: ATHENS.

ESTABLISHED 1893

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38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £3,900,000.

Court of Directors.

SIR MONTAGU CORNISH TURNER, *Chairman.*
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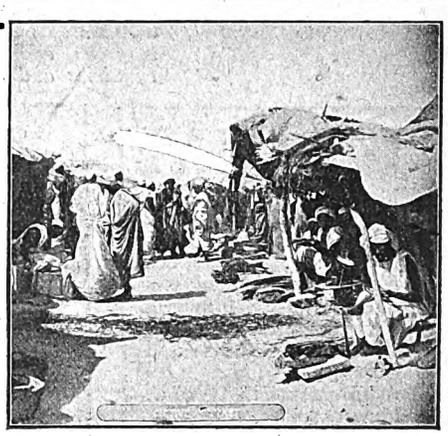

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No. 702—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Greek Ministry's Policy.

The new Greek Cabinet under M. Michalakopoulos met the National Assembly on October 15, and obtained a vote of confidence by 201 votes to 92. In the programme laid down by the new Ministry there was nothing very startling; such things as the speedy amendment of the Constitution, decentralisation of the Administration, and, less important, proportional representation, were put in its forefront. The Prime Minister then sketched out other reforms, and, as might naturally be expected of him, dealt chiefly with financial and commercial matters—the protection of grapes, wines, and tobacco, the simplification of fiscal legislation, the stabilisation of the exchange, and so on. In foreign policy there is to be no change, and the only matter on which emphasis was laid was the desire to consolidate the alliance with Yugoslavia. Greek politics at the moment are a bewildering study, for men rather than measures still remain the chief topic of conversation. The present Government's programme appears to be quite sound, and if only the irreconcilable militarist elements of the Papanastassiou party will consent to give it free play, there seems to be no reason why its sponsors should not enjoy a longer life than has been the lot of previous Administrations. It is comforting to know that, in spite of all these political changes, the commercial life of Greece is steadily improving, and that, whatever happens in the National Assembly, Athens and the Piræus are once more partaking of some of their pre-War prosperity. The economic weapon still is greater to impress foreigners than any political promise. There is little doubt that, however much the political flower in Greece may run to seed after seed, the main current of the country's life is in the right direction.

The Yugoslav Cabinet.

That which we feared last week came swiftly about, for the Davidovitch Government of Yugoslavia was forced to resign. Political uncertainty dismally shadows once more the lot of the Triune Kingdom, and yet again the old party intrigue, which has now since the Armistice hindered the progress of Yugoslavia, gains the ascendant. The causes that brought about the resignation of M. Davidovitch are curious. Apparently the personality of the Premier stood in the way of the Radicals' joining the Cabinet, and, while negotiations were proceeding to settle this difficulty, M. Raditch took the opportunity of creating another by asserting that, if this crisis did not end satisfactorily to his party, he would work for the secession of Croatia and the organising of a peasant movement in Serbia. Into this tangle of hopelessly conflicting aims the King of Yugoslavia bravely stepped. He pointed out the impossibility of M. Davidovitch's remaining, even with a majority, in office, for under his régime no accord between Serbs and Croats could be brought about. Possibly, too, the resignation of General Hajitch, a former Premier and an aide-de-camp to the King, for the reason that the anti-State propaganda of M. Raditch's deputies was not sufficiently noticed by the Government, had something to do with this demand for the removal of M. Davidovitch. This resignation causes great speculation on the composition of the next Cabinet. It will be a Coalition; but agreement has not yet been reached between Radicals, Democrats, Bosnian Mussulmans, and Slovenian Clericals. What the precise combination will be, and, particularly, how the party of M Raditch will fare, remain to be seen.

The League and Iraq.

It may have been a certain lack of precision in definition on the part of the British representative at the League of Nations, it was certainly quick and un-moral dealing on the part of the Turkish representatives, that left a loophole for mischievous interpretation of the *status quo* of the disputed northern territory of Iraq. To suppose that Britain, in assenting to refer, for final decision, the whole question of the Mosul vilayet to the League of Nations would take into account the movements during September of Turkish troops, is not only impudent, but childish. No wonder that such procedure by this headstrong Republic caused alarums in both London and Angora. But wise counsels have prevailed. Both sides have agreed to refer to the League the question of what

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is the *status quo* which is to be maintained pending final settlement of the frontier. A meeting to decide the preliminary question is to take place in Brussels on October 27. There is in this fact alone thorough justification of the existence of the League. The one essential factor for peace in the situation—time—has been gained, and the matter has been taken out of the atmosphere, on the one side, of inflamed national passion, and, on the other, of righteous indignation, into the refined and detached storage-house of the League. It is impossible not to believe that, had the League not existed, this dispute would have lasted longer and would have had more serious consequences. That the British Government should, after having perforce adopted a very different tone towards the recalcitrancy of Angora, be so ready to accept the League's ruling in the matter is in itself a great compliment to the international Assembly.

Turkey's Mood.

But, although there are for the time being a lull on the diplomatic waters and calm on the military fronts, it should not easily be supposed that we are yet out of the wood. The Turks generally appear to have hailed the British decision to refer the matter to the League as a triumph for their powers of resolution. Kemal Pasha himself seems to have been thrasonically strutting the country (excluding Constantinople) saying that the Turkish nation knows that an attack on the smallest particle of its soil is a blow directed at its whole existence. It is difficult to presage a smooth solution of the Mosul question when leaders of Turkish opinion are still in such extravagant mood. There are, admittedly, certain cloudy signs, a little larger now than a man's hand, which indicate that in the present meeting of the Angora Assembly there may be criticism of the Turkish Cabinet, which might conceivably result in the formation of an Administration that could pursue its foreign policy with more consistency and *savoir faire*. It may, incidentally, be true that the Turkish Government has, as various Constantinople journals state, worked up this Mosul crisis to distract public attention from the defects of its home policy. Many Turks are strongly aggrieved at the way in which the exchange of populations is being carried out, and the large question of the needs of Moslem immigrants is, it is said, to be made a ground for attacking the Government. But too much should not be built on these reports. The ardour of Angora is taking a very long time to cool down, and whether a stronger Cabinet than that presided over by Ismet Pasha would produce better relations with Great Britain, is, of course, an open question.

Friction in Persia.

The troubles of Persia appear by no means to have ended with the collapse of the Republican agitation. That movement died down perhaps too quickly as the result of a surprising *volte face* on the part of the Prime Minister, the Sardar Sipah, and it seems that his subsequent motives and actions are not going unquestioned by certain outlying Persian chiefs. Friction between the Sheikh of Mohammerah, in Arabistan, and the Central Government is no new thing, but this time it is founded, according to general report, on personal hostility between these two powerful men. The Sheikh is convinced that Riza Khan has designs on the powers and possessions granted him by the Shahs, and demands the removal of the Premier. The Central Government has sought in vain to explain away the position, with the result that the present situation is controlled by the fact that there are now 2,000 Government troops in Ispahan, awaiting eventualities. Further danger has been provided by the return of Salar ed Dowleh, uncle of the Shah, to Ahwaz, north of Mohammerah. He has a certain popularity with the Lurs, and if he should actively join the Sheikh of Mohammerah this suspicion of the Government might assume a serious aspect. It is to be hoped that hostilities will not commence, for opinion is agreed that only in some such lead as the Sardar Sipah is giving to the Persians are stability and progress to be found. As matters stand, however, there is justification for the remark that Teheran is no more Persia than Dublin is Ireland.

Wahhabis in Mecca.

For the first time for some years Wahhabis made themselves last week free to go in and out of Mecca as they, or, rather, their great leader, willed. It was natural that the appearance of Ibn Saoud's men in the capital of ex-King Hussein should, in the mouths of those of the now fleeing Shereefian supporters who agreed with his policy of closing the *haj* to Wahhabis, have given rise to familiar stories of pillaging and defamation. But, it would appear, although news from Arabia is scanty and has to be carefully sifted, that the Wahhabis have actually been restrained by the very long and strong arm of their leader. According to the most probable accounts, soldiers of the "Ikhwan" are playing but little part in the occupation of Mecca. That they, who, after covering all the hundreds of miles from Nejd, put the Hejaz Army into the most ignominious plight (its sparse remains are said to have been withdrawn from Bahara), should not now be allowed to loot as is the wont of the Bedouin, implies that the tremendous organisation which is the work of Ibn Saoud has not yet broken down. Whether the Wahhabis will now stay their hand, or whether, as is reported, they are marching on Akaba, is uncertain; but one must be chary in predicting continued order and restraint. It is true that Ibn Saoud has with Great Britain a Treaty which binds him to keep open within his territories the roads which lead to the Holy Places, but the event alone will prove whether he is able to observe this clause, or whether he will, as did his predecessor more than a hundred years ago, make the Holy Cities closed to all but the followers of his Faith. Those who know him best believe in the former possibility, and this fact should provide relief to many Moslems.

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British Policy in Arabia.

At once and insistently the question arises: What is to be the attitude of Great Britain towards the Wahhabis? Answer is variously made. Generally speaking, the attitude of the placid Briton towards the Wahhabis resembles that of the British General towards the compositions of Wagner: "We do not like 'em, but we are not afraid of 'em." But to consider views of more detailed knowledge. Those observers who believe that this success in the Hejaz is but a flash in the pan, that its agents are fundamentally but looting Bedouin, that the whole system of government which the ruler of Nejd has made the pride and the fear of the Peninsula will fall to pieces with his death, counsel vigilant caution. They realise that the collapse of the Hejaz Army and the flight of ex-King Hussein the Lord-knows-whither—Basra and Amman are alternatively stated as refuges—are a humiliation to this country, which in turn excited and fed and tempered his ambitions, but still they counsel delay in action. On the other and very considerable hand, there are those who advocate the immediate recognition by this country of Ibn Saoud's success over his ancient rival, and the sending to the Court of Riyadh of a British representative. Such advocates think, apparently, that the pan-Arab idea as a political bond and idea on which to conduct a policy is dead; let us, they say, cut away the romance which has in the last few years enshrouded British policy in Arabia, face the facts, and acknowledge the real master of the situation, Ibn Saoud. Other enthusiasts over Arabia have pleaded that Britain should enter the struggle, either actively or pacifically, on the side of the Shereefian family, but since their enthusiasm has been overtaken, and the object of it been engulfed, by events, their views need scarcely be considered now. On the whole, it is difficult not to incline to the side of caution. This move of Ibn Saoud cannot have been inspired wholly by hatred of Hussein, and its intentions have not yet been made clear. Why, for instance, he, or some of his followers, should ever have attacked Transjordan has not yet been satisfactorily explained. It is certain, moreover, that should he attack any British mandated territory, a warm reception is the fate of his fanatical tribesmen. If that should occur, one of two things is likely to happen: either the allegiance which outlying tribes now owe him will be compromised, or relations between Britain and Nejd will become even more difficult than they now are. But there is, in truth, little doubt of the goodness of his personal attitude towards this country, and if he should succeed in consolidating his position, we should not be slow to regularise relations with him. There can be no question that Ibn Saoud himself is anxious to open up the resources of his country and to see it progress. He is, for instance, sending students from the Nejd to civilised countries like Syria and Egypt, and he is said to be building hospitals and inviting doctors to his country. From one so sincerely desirous of enlightenment it would be difficult to withhold British support. But he must first prove that he is not the only link in the Central Arabian chain.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The General Election.

Thirty-two members of the new Parliament have been already elected unopposed. These fortunate men, who are saved time, money, and temper by their possession of those ideal constituencies where nobody wants to challenge their right of possession, include the Speaker, Mr. Baldwin, and the two members for the City of London—which is more interested in finance than politics.

There remain 1,374 candidates for 583 seats—the total number of aspirants being 538 Conservatives, 524 Labour, and 333 Liberals. In fifty-one constituencies there will be a straight fight between Conservative and Liberal, in 247 the same between Conservative and Socialist, and fifty-four between Liberal and Socialist. There will be 225 triangular fights and three multiple contests.

A great deal has been written this last week about the negotiations between Conservatives and Liberals to avoid these three-cornered contests, and negotiations have been set on foot to escape them. The party headquarters, although taking no direct part in these pourparlers, have certainly smiled on them, and a good many pacts have undoubtedly been arranged—notably in Paisley, where Mr. Asquith's return has been rendered certain by the withdrawal of the Tory; and in Glasgow, where all fifteen seats have been partitioned to give either Liberal or Unionist a clean contest with the Government.

But the fact that there are still over two hundred three-cornered fights shows that these "pacts against Socialism" do not go so far as Lord Beaverbrook, at least, had hoped. The truth is that local rivalries are often very strong, and that a great many people do not take the "menace" of Socialism quite as seriously as professional politicians and leader-writers. If they really thought the Commonwealth in danger, there is little doubt that the two older parties would sink their differences.

It must be confessed, too, that not every politician is impressed by all the talk of the evil of minority members and minority governments. After all, there is something in the argument that anybody has the right to stand for any constituency, and that constitutionally at least you vote for a man and not for a party; the man who gets most votes being returned irrespective of party. The luck sometimes favours one side and sometimes the other, but statisticians who have investigated these things assure me that, on the whole, it evens out. Last time the luck favoured Labour, two years ago it was on the side of the Tories. This year, who knows?

Election Oratory.

For the time being, of course, the papers are full of party manifestoes and election oratory, and

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the conscientious citizen who reads all sides will soon suffer from mental confusion in the first degree. I cannot honestly say that democracy shows its best side during these arguments; a few examples will suffice. The Trade Union Council, for instance, have issued a letter declaring that the Government has been destroyed by a combination of its opponents—whereas the fact is that the Government is still in existence, and will remain alive unless and until it is defeated in the next House of Commons. The same manifesto declares that the Labour Government is the only one within living memory which has reduced the taxes on food—whereas the Coalition Government of 1922 reduced the tea and coffee duties, and the Bonar Law Government would have reduced the sugar duty had there been any prospect that the consumer and not the producer would have benefited. Actually the reductions which Mr. Snowden made last May have gone into the pocket of the producer and not the consumer, so that the Trade Union boast has little point.

The Trend of Opinion.

It is extraordinarily difficult, with the huge modern electorate, to say how the fight is going, and I shall not attempt any prophecy as to the result. All parties, as usual, profess the utmost confidence, but the Liberals admit that they are campaigning under a tactical advantage against both right and left; the Conservatives confess in private that they would be happier with a more inspiring leader than the excellent Mr. Baldwin; and Labour is obviously getting rather rattled. Mr. MacDonald, for instance, becomes increasingly shrill—he has accused his opponents of being like "dogs barking round a heap of garbage," a double description which fits neither his opponents nor his own followers. The Prime Minister, indeed, is not a great asset for his side, and the hope that he would win the great middle-class vote is diminishing. Any seats that are won for Labour the week after next will have been won by obscure local politicians of the rank and file, who are working with an enthusiasm and energy that is the envy of their opponents.

For the first time, however, Labour is fighting under the handicap of having been in power; it has to justify its past, and to explain away its promises. The task, as the older organisations recognise, is not an easy one. Labour can point to the settlement with Germany as an asset—although the settlement is not popular in its own mining constituencies, for economic reasons—but against this must be set the Russian Treaty. The Campbell case, although referred to in every speech, does not seem to me to have much effect one way or the other; the two chief difficulties of the Government are unemployment and the cost of living.

A year ago they pledged themselves to cure the one and reduce the other. There is the usual squabble over the method of compiling the statistics of unemployment, as to which the Government speakers have made some effective points, but on the broad issue it has to be admitted that unemployment remains much the same. The real truth is, of course, that no political measures can make much difference to an economic question, but no politician will ever admit this. The result is that a year ago Labour won votes on this issue, and the probability is that this year it will lose votes on the same issue.

As to the cost of living, every Liberal and Labour candidate last year denounced Protection on the ground that it would increase the cost of living, and claimed that his policy of Free Trade would reduce the price of food. The Free Trade record of the Government is unimpeachable, but, unluckily, the cost of living has gone up. Once again, of course, the real defence is that the cost of living is dependent on world prices, which no Government can control, but no politician dare admit this.

Broadcasting Politics.

As I came across Trafalgar Square one evening last week I heard a voice that proceeded from nowhere. It was not so impressive as the unseen hand that wrote on the wall in the Biblical story, but nevertheless it was impressive—until I recognised that it was the voice of Mr. Baldwin being broadcasted. A few days earlier Mr. MacDonald had been broadcasted from the platform, but the attempt was a failure—first, because Mr. MacDonald strides up and down the platform as he talks, while the broadcaster cannot follow him; and secondly, because the machine does not take applause, hisses, cat-calls, and the usual interruptions of a political meeting very effectively. Mr. Asquith had rather better luck, but Mr. Baldwin was a real success—not because he is a better speaker, but simply because he realised the conditions, shut himself up in a room with the machine, and talked quietly into it. The result was that every word was audible, and people stopped to listen.

But, for all that, it is not the same thing as a meeting. One misses the personality of the speaker, and one is a little apt to resent the impersonality of the machine. To the imaginative it must seem a ghostly, eerie performance; the practical politician must lament that he cannot heckle the broadcaster, and it is no use whatever to throw rotten eggs at a voice. This new development has come to stay, but it will never be a substitute for the excitement and enthusiasm of a packed hall, cheering a great leader. You can't even cheer a loud-speaker.

Royalty and Music.

Rumour has always suggested that the King and Queen are not particularly interested in music, while the younger members of the Royal Family frankly prefer the dance to the symphony. It was, therefore, a particularly kindly act on the part of the King and Queen to attend a Queen's Hall concert last week, the more particularly as there is a political crisis on. The great audience of Promenaders, who know that these concerts have been carried on under great difficulties of late, were enthusiastic at this mark of royal recognition; the hall was uncomfortably crowded, and everybody hoped that this testimonial would smooth the way for future seasons.

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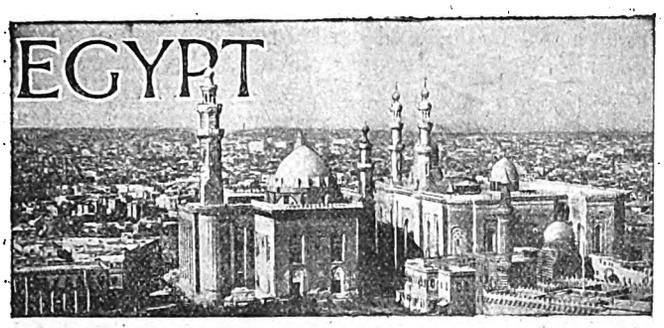

Cairo, October 11.

The Anglo-Egyptian Negotiations.

The sudden cessation of the conversations between Mr. MacDonald and Zaghloul Pasha came as a great surprise to Egypt. The latter's telegrams had been couched in such sanguine tone that it certainly looked as if the policy followed out here during the past year was about to receive justification and the latest meeting between British and Egyptian representatives would end in the settlement which everyone, of no matter what political camp, has so ardently desired for some time past. But one has been doomed to bitter disappointment, a disappointment that is strikingly widespread. The White Book, giving details of the discussions that ensued, shows only too plainly that either Zaghloul Pasha was completely misled by his advisers with regard to what the British Government was prepared to concede or that he himself entirely misread the signs. Whatever the explanation may be—and there is little doubt that the extreme members of his party who accompanied him to London stand for a good deal in his attitude—the fact remains that he deliberately disregarded the very excellent advice sent him from influential and reliable quarters here to make every effort to come to an agreement, for the manner in which he put forward his demands was obviously intended to leave no room for compromise. Those who, knowing Zaghloul Pasha's temperament, predicted that he would fail because he does not possess the qualities of a statesman or a negotiator have proved, alas! only too correct in their prognostication. Once again an admirable opportunity has been lost—the first was in 1920—owing to Zaghloul's fear for his own popularity with the students and the more extreme members of his party and his inability to take his courage in both hands and tell his fellow-countrymen what is really for their good.

The Failure of Zaghloul Pasha.

What makes this failure all the more tragic is the undeniable fact that the country was, with but very few exceptions, ready and eager to accept whatever he might bring back to it, and that if he had come to an agreement he could have got it ratified by Parliament with the greatest ease. His subservience to his extreme *entourage*, whose fanaticism leads them entirely to ignore facts and to strain after an ideal which the geographical situation of their country renders impossible of attainment, has merely resulted in Egypt's losing a tactical position without any compensating advantage, and in the indefinite postponement of the day of settlement.

The Political Outlook.

Zaghloul Pasha returns to Egypt on the 20th inst., and he will have a reception which we can be certain will equal in warmth the farewell he received on his departure in July last. It is expected that he will submit the results of his conversations to Parliament, which reassembles on November 15, and that he will seek a vote of confidence. That he will secure this vote may be taken as a foregone conclusion, for, as things are at present, no matter what they may feel, no one would dare to utter a contrary voice. As to what will follow after that it is quite impossible to foresee. The unreasoning and more hot-headed of his followers call for a forward policy and organised opposition and hostility to Great Britain, convinced that thereby they can force acceptance of their extreme demands. (There is a persistent idea that if the Labour Party are returned with a strong majority it will be possible to secure a reversal of the present decision next spring.) On the other hand, the more instructed and thinking element realise only too well the dangers of such an attitude, but as yet they are not in a position to make their influence felt, and perforce are compelled by the present condition of things to continue to do lip-service to the views of the more articulate extremists. The outlook is far from brilliant, for there are many questions looming on the horizon which, unless carefully treated, may easily bring about a serious and far-reaching crisis in the affairs of the nation, and the indications at the present moment are by no means for political peace and a reasonable attitude towards these vital matters.

GREECE.

Athens, October 14.

The Political Situation.

After protracted negotiations, the political crisis which resulted from M. Sofoulis' resignation culminated in the formation of a Cabinet by M. Michalakopoulos, member for Patras. Greece today can boast of no more able politician than M. Michalakopoulos, but it is probably a pity that he opposed M. Kafandaris' proposal for a coalition Cabinet comprising all the party leaders in the National Assembly. It is true that M. Kafan-

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daris' scheme was also rejected by M. Papanastassiou, who will never forgive the other political leaders for having joined hands to overthrow his Cabinet. M. Michalakopoulos had not the same reasons as M. Papanastassiou had for opposing the formation of a wide coalition Cabinet, and it is barely conceivable that it is his personal ambitions which impelled him to assume the attitude he assumed, an attitude which came rather as a disappointment to the political world in general. M. Michalakopoulos has, however, announced his intention to pave the way as soon as possible for a general election, and that was also the line M. Kafandaris proposed to follow. All Greek politicians have by this time realised that no good can come to the country from one-sided Parliaments, and that the sooner an appeal to the people is made and the Royalist leaders stand for election the better. Party strife amongst the masses has practically disappeared, in spite of the efforts of certain politicians and their Press organs to maintain it. At the present juncture neither the Republicans nor the Royalists feel very sure of their ground, and it is characteristic of the situation that there are Republican and Royalist principals at the head of all newly instituted business ventures. This precaution is certainly taken in view of political possibilities In this country it is always useful to have one iron on the political anvil, as the support of political friends is a valuable asset to business concerns.

The Democratic Union and the Government.

The Democratic Union, M. Papanastassiou's party, has announced its decision to wage war on the Government, and, indeed, has begun operations even before the meeting of the National Assembly. Its first grievance is the nomination of General Guillaumat as head of the new military mission to Greece when the Papanastassiou Government had invited General Franchet d'Esperey to come to Greece for the reorganisation of the Army. General Pangalos, who was Minister of War in the Papanastassiou Cabinet, actually visited M. Michalakopoulos for the sole purpose of demanding explanations on the subject. The Premier replied that his immediate predecessor, M. Sofoulis, had asked the French Government whether it would send a General to Greece for the reorganisation of the Army, and that that mission had been entrusted to General Guillaumat. Talking to Press representatives on the subject, M. Michalakopoulos said that if General Pangalos had any objections to the nomination of General Guillaumat he could formulate them in the National Assembly. General Guillaumat will make only a short stay in Greece in order to study the military situation. He will then return to Paris, and will form a mission to be composed of some twenty officers, who will come to Greece as military instructors. General Guillaumat will subsequently take up his new appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the French forces on the Rhine.

The Campaign Against Mr. Morgenthau.

Certain organs of the Athens Yellow Press have for some time past been casting aspersions at Mr. Henry Morgenthau, chairman of the Refugee Settlement Commission, in connection with orders placed with German firms for sectional cottages to be used for housing refugees. The campaign started against Mr. Morgenthau by Greek papers was taken up by an Athens sheet printed in the English language, which inferred that preference was given to German firms for orders to be paid with English money (read the sums advanced by the Bank of England on the refugee loan). Mr. J. Campbell, acting chairman of the Refugee Commission in the absence of Mr. Morgenthau, addressed to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, for communication to the Athens Press, a vehement denial of the insinuations levelled at Mr. Morgenthau. Mr. Campbell explains first, that the contracts in question were signed during Mr. Morgenthau's absence, and that consequently he has no responsibility whatever in the matter, and, secondly, that the orders were placed with German firms because they offered much more favourable terms than British or other firms. The German tenders were carefully examined by both British and Greek technical experts, and, adds Mr. Campbell, it is the duty of the Refugee Settlement Commission to get the most it can for the limited funds at its disposal. Concluding, Mr. Campbell declares that there is no ground for the apprehensions expressed as to the stability of the German cottages. The Greek Press in general has given prominence to Mr. Campbell's denial.

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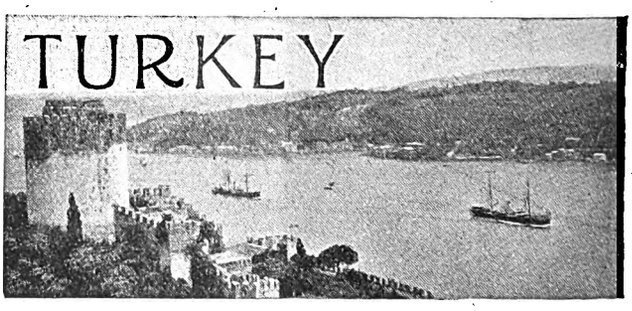

Constantinople, October 13.

The Crisis.

Turkey is in the middle of a crisis of the first magnitude. The last Note of the British Government to Angora on the subject of the events on the Iraq Frontier is regarded as an ultimatum worthy of the most reactionary of the capitalist Western Powers, and the papers are lashing themselves into a righteous fury. The Turkish Government's attitude is not clear at the time of writing. Unquestionably the word has gone forth to the Press to modify its transports and to represent the attitude of the British as capable of reasonable modification as soon as the Turkish responsive Note to the "Ultimatum" has been received, but at the same time the Grand National Assembly has been

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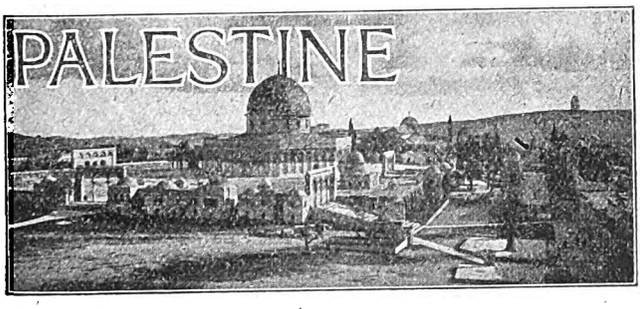
urgently convoked earlier than was originally intended. Opinions differ as to the significance of this move; some say that it is merely a prelude to the adoption of a "strong" policy against British aggression, while others affirm that the opposition to the Government has grown so strong during the past six months that the convocation of the Assembly will do nothing but unchain the internal political passions and divisions, and throw the country into the cockpit of internal dissension, thus rendering it impossible to adopt any precise line of conduct towards any foreign Power.

Constantinople Rumours.

Many rumours are circulating in Constantinople. One is assured on all hands that several classes of recruits are being called up, that a complete census of all means of transport is being carried out, that large reinforcements of troops have been sent to the Mosul front, and so on *ad infinitum*. There may be a grain of truth in all these tales. In any case they are normal measures to take, even if there is only the most shadowy risk of hostilities. It must not be forgotten, however, that in the present state of the administration of this country it will take many months before any of these measures will have been sufficiently realised in practice to make any real difference to the balance of power as between Britain and Turkey. The state of what public opinion there is is such that any Government which launches Turkey into even the most insignificant war will have short shrift: if Mustapha Kemal and Ismet are so short-sighted as to bank upon the traditional discipline of the Turkish civil and military elements, they are likely to find that the institution of a democratic republican régime has its disadvantages.



Jerusalem, October 11.

Dr. Weizmann's Impressions.

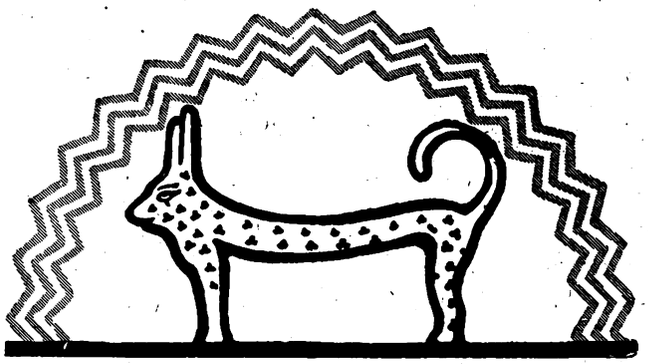
Dr. Weizmann leaves Palestine next Wednesday after about three weeks in the country. Yesterday he met the "Association of Press Correspondents in Palestine," and summarised his impressions. These impressions were uniformly good, and he expressed himself as quite satisfied with the way things were shaping. What pleased him most was that the new Jewish Palestinian life had become—in the medical sense—normal. Three years ago there was no lack of immigrants, and they faced the unaccustomed and difficult work before them with tremendous avidity; but this keenness was the direct consequence of a lofty idealism, quite admirable in itself—but Dr. Weizmann and the other leaders occasionally had fears lest, with the inevitable dulling of the idealism, the enthusiastic taste for hard labour fade away, too. Three years have now gone, and with them has gone virtually all of the more feverish pursuit of Zionistic ideals for the sake of the ideals alone; yet the taste and enthusiasm for the drabber forms of labour has persisted. Thus, to take Dr. Weizmann's illustration, whereas the immigrant in his earlier stages looked upon a cow as a cog in the wheel which was to grind into shape the Jewish National Home, he now looked upon it as just a cow, a thing to be cultivated for its useful contribution to daily life.

"Normal" again were the personal relations between Jew and Arab wherever and whenever they lived together as neighbours. They invited each other to their family festivals; the Jew would tell the Arab cultivator all he knew of scientific gardening and lend his implements, while the Arab would disclose the mysteries of goat-herding and camel-driving (three years ago there was not a single Jewish camel-driver; now there are two hundred).

"Normal" yet again, or rapidly becoming so, was the type of immigrant: the penniless, heavily subsidised, and supported immigrant was giving place to the family group with its small capital and ability to support itself by some trade or handicraft. The Zionist Organisation, whose primary duty aforetime had been to instil into an apathetic Jewry the ideals of Zionism, was now finding itself conscientiously bound to issue occasional warnings of the danger of overtaxing Palestine's powers of absorption in certain industrial activities.

Still more normal—and nobody interested in Palestine can help noticing the fact—is the whole atmosphere of public and political affairs. Three years ago the air was electric with the possibility of explosions; the smallest act of unwisdom, especially by the Jew, was liable to be followed by the most serious consequences. But the air is now clearer, though not entirely clear; and all alike had learned the lessons of moderation and tact. And it is certainly most true that Palestine has ceased to be a centre of "sensations" from the newspaper point of view: the last half-year has been more destitute of "reportable" matters than at any time within the last six years.

In reference to the growing absence of acts of



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EGYPT—THE ETERNAL WONDERLAND

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unwisdom on the part of the Jews, Dr. Weizmann used this opportunity to make public his regret, and the regret of all responsibly minded Zionists, at the offence given by the Jerusalem Hebrew daily paper, *Doar ha-Yom*, to all sections of the Palestine public. This paper, about a month ago, in the course of some facetious comment on the conversion of Dr. Herzl's son, quoted a well-known anecdote, containing an epithet which has laid them open to a charge of blaspheming Jesus. Morally, it may be, the sum-total of guilt on the part of the paper is a violation of good taste on the part of the writer of the offending passage and excessively stupid carelessness on the part of the editors. But, politically, the results have been deplorable. Christians and Moslems alike have placed the worst interpretation on the passage, and the present indignation, among Europeans, Arabs, and Jews as well, is intense. The Government have hesitated to bring the matter before the courts lest feelings be made worse; but the agitation against the Hebrew paper has grown rapidly and seriously, and action will certainly be taken before long. Almost inevitably Latins and Arabs have done their best to make political capital out of the affair, even asserting that this is only a part of a deliberate campaign directed against Christianity in Palestine and a foretaste of what a growth of Jewish influence in Palestine involves.

The Arab Executive.

The Arab Executive is showing increased signs of life. Its secretary, Jamal Effendi el-Husseini announces a meeting of the Executive to make arrangements for the prompt summoning of the "Seventh Arab Congress" in order to meet the present evil conditions raised by "the bad economic situation, and the haste of the Zionist Associations to buy large tracts of the most fertile lands in Palestine from rich men of Beyrout and Damascus, and the bad political situation in the Arab Peninsula." The Congress will be asked to agree to the following three points: (1) To consider the establishment of a general Arab Association for buying the lands which are being sold to-day to the Jews for small sums (!). After the establishment of this Association, a delegation will proceed to America in order to sell a part of the shares to the emigrants of Palestine and Syria there. (2) To compose rules in order to organise branch associations, and to establish them in the different towns of Palestine. (3) To deal with the political situation in the country and its connection with the struggle now waging in the Hejaz.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, October 1.

Turkish Violation of Northern Frontier.

No fresh developments have been reported in connection with the Turkish incursion into Iraq territory. The Turks have burned a number of Assyrian villages well within the Iraq frontier, but as all the Assyrian tribesmen, to the number of about five thousand, have fled to Iraq for safety, there has been no general massacre. Once again, after infinite trouble has been taken to repatriate them, the Assyrians are on the hands of the British and Iraq Governments.

The Turks are being continually harassed by aerial action, and the Iraqi police posts, which were evacuated, have, with a single exception, been reoccupied.

Visit of Lord Thomson.

The British Air Minister arrived in Baghdad by air on September 25. He was received at the Hinaidi landing ground by H.E. the High Commissioner, the Air Vice-Marshal, and prominent Iraqi officials. After inspecting the guard of honour, he proceeded to the Residency, where he was the guest of His Excellency.

After a round of dinners and inspections, Lord Thomson left by air for Mosul. Thence he went on to Kirkuk and Suleimaniyeh, where he was accorded a great reception by a large concourse of tribal sheikhs, religious heads, and prominent merchants. All expressed their gratitude at the reoccupation of their town and their emancipation from the tyranny of Sheikh Mahmud. It is noteworthy that since its reoccupation two months ago the population of Suleimaniyeh has increased from 700 to 12,000.

On his last evening in Baghdad Lord Thomson dined with King Faisal, leaving the following morning for Egypt by air.

As a sign of the increasing modernity of Baghdad, it may be mentioned that two days after the Air Minister's arrival the cinemas were showing on the screen pictures of his reception.

Iraq Railways.

The railways, though the property of H.B.M.G., were provisionally handed over early last year to the Iraq Government, which became responsible for their administration and for any deficit which might occur on their working. Thanks to the efforts of the British officials on the railway directorate, there has been a marked improvement in the running of the railways, and a profit of seven lakhs is shown. Other relevant figures are:—

Number of passengers carried	498,522
Mileage travelled by passengers ...	51,373,931
Tons of goods carried	400,525
Ton-miles of goods	77,963,905

Only one serious accident took place last year. This, which occurred on the Baghdad-Basra line, and resulted in three persons being killed and twenty-seven injured, was due to a storm. Excessive rainwater and floods comprise the chief natural difficulties against which the Railway Staff has to contend; wash-outs are a frequent cause of delay, and would be of accidents were not special precautions taken during the winter, when heavy rains may be expected.

Though the grain traffic was good last year, the amount carried being increased from 91,000 tons in 1922-23 to 127,000 in 1923-24, of which no less than 85,000 tons was railed to Magil for export, the net results are not as good as might have been expected, owing to a falling-off in the passenger traffic. During last year, in addition to having to face the usual road and river competition, the railways were handicapped by a cholera epidemic, which not only curtailed movement within the country, but restricted to a very large extent the entry of Persian pilgrims into Iraq. As the pilgrim traffic during certain Mohammedan feasts amounts to over 1,500 passengers a day, the loss was a serious one. Competition in this country is severe. On the river the various shipping companies undercut one another, a practice which reacts adversely on the railway receipts, as it entails a reduction in fares. Cheap motor transport affects the railways more perhaps in this than in other countries, for six, even seven or eight, Arabs are content to crowd into the oldest, most dilapidated of Fords, caring nothing, apparently, for noise, discomfort, and the possibility of breakdown.

During last year the Kerbela branch line was completed, and was formally opened on December 12, 1923, by King Faisal. Other works chiefly took the form of substituting better bridges for the temporary structures erected during the War; in

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particular, the Imam Abdulla Bridge, crossing the Euphrates between Rumaitha and Samawah, has been completed. Basra City has been connected with Makina Station, thereby removing the inconvenience of the terminus at Basra, being some three or four miles away from the city. The wagon ferry across the river at Baghdad has also been improved.

The chief work undertaken this year is the extension of the line from Kingerban to Kirkuk, a distance of eighty miles. Difficult bridges and the shortage of labour are hampering progress. Other proposed new works consist of further new bridges, and the concentration of all the workshops on a site near Baghdad—a change which will combine increased efficiency with greater economy.

Suleimaniyeh.

A small punitive column, composed of cavalry and infantry of the Iraq Army, assisted by aeroplanes, has been engaged in minor operations in the neighbourhood of Suleimaniyeh. Two villages which had been used as bases for Sheikh Mahmud's forces, were burned, and a number of suspected persons arrested. The Iraq Army overcame the opposition and inflicted casualties, suffering none in return.

General News.

The Prime Minister, Yassin Pasha, has been touring the Mosul vilayet. During his absence, Sassoon Effendi, Minister of Finance, has been acting for him, as well as for the Minister of Interior, who has gone to Amman to meet the Crown Prince of Iraq.

His Royal Highness the Emir Zaid, younger brother of the King, left Baghdad last week for England. For the next four years he will be a member of the University of Oxford.

Saiyid Talib will not be returning to Iraq as soon as was expected. He is returning to Egypt from Damascus, until such time as the Organic Law, a clause of which prohibits the banishment of any Iraqi, has been ratified by King Faisal.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, Delayed.

The Late M. Spyro Araousos.

Not the Greek community alone, but the whole island has suffered a greatly deplored loss in the death of M. Spyro Araousos, of Limassol, who was for many years one of the most esteemed and respected of the Cypriots who have taken a leading part in local affairs. Of well-balanced mind, of a cautious, but sympathetic disposition, he had always shown himself worthy of the confidence that was placed in him by all classes. In the Legislative Council, as President of the Municipal Council of Limassol, and in other offices, he rendered great services. For many years he was the trusted agent in Cyprus of the Austrian Lloyd S.S. Company. Not only was he held in honour by his own community. His many friends among the British always recognised his undoubted sincerity, both in public and private life, and found him not only a straightforward, honourable, and able exponent of Greek views and aims, but one who could be relied upon to give valuable and unbiased advice on any matter of local importance. His independence of judgment sometimes placed him in opposition to his eight Greek colleagues in the Legislative Council. The Government showed their appreciation of his character, ability, and sound judgment by appointing him a member of the Executive Council. Last year, at the unanimous request of his countrymen, he undertook—though suffering from a grave malady, to which he has succumbed—to be the bearer of a memorial submitted by those who advocate the union of Cyprus with Greece; and in interviews at the Colonial Office, when, according to medical advice, he should have been at complete rest, he carried out what was a hopeless task with zeal and ability.

Hundreds of telegrams from Egypt, Paris, London, Athens, and other places have been evidence of the high esteem and affection in which he was held by numerous friends; while representatives of the Greek Church and all public bodies in Cyprus have rendered homage. At a memorial service two bishops, a large body of clergy, the Commissioner, Commandant of Police, the Hellenic Consul, and many thousands of leading persons in towns and villages paid their respects. A street in Limassol is to bear M. Araousos' name.

The High Commissioner's Report.

The Annual Report for 1923 is, as usual, subjected to considerable criticism. The principal complaints relate to the money still taken from Cyprus in continuation of the "Turkish Tribute," to the cost of administration, which, it is said, could be carried out efficiently at far lower expense by native officials, to the neglect of agriculture, the need of more public works, including the maintenance of roads, which—although it is boasted that over 800 miles have been made since the British occupation—are lamentably in need of repairs. It has always been argued that the Turkish Tribute, which is regarded as having been fixed at an unfairly high rate, should be borne by the Imperial Government, since the island was taken over for Imperial purposes. It must be said that general opinion endorses some of the complaints made by the Greek Press. A body calling itself the "Executive Agricultural Council," which has passed resolutions condemning the alleged "apathy" of the Government in matters relating to agriculture, has resolved to send its complaints direct to the Colonial Office, after a meeting fixed for October 5 at Nicosia. The total amount of island revenue from 1878 to 1923 has amounted to £14,377,723 (including grants in aid of £1,697,085). The cost of administration has been £9,963,611, which, added to the amount paid on account of Turkish Tribute (£4,211,334), raises the total expenditure to £14,174,945.

General News.

The High Commissioner, Sir Malcolm Stevenson, returned to Cyprus on September 24. Mr. Fenn, the Chief Secretary, has left on a long leave. Mr. Ellis will act during his absence. The Government officers have returned to Nicosia from summer quarters on Mt. Troodos. The Greek Archbishop is sending a preacher of his staff, as exhibitioner, to Oxford to pursue higher theological studies. Warnings are again given to intending emigrants to New York and Chicago not to go to America, owing to the serious state of unemployment there.

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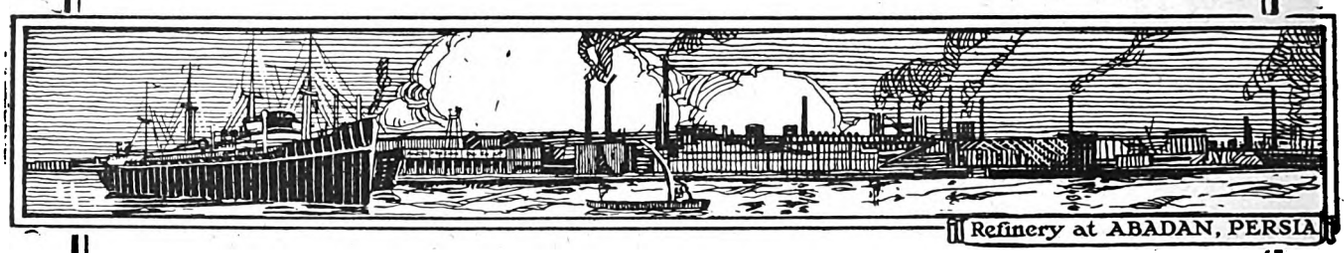

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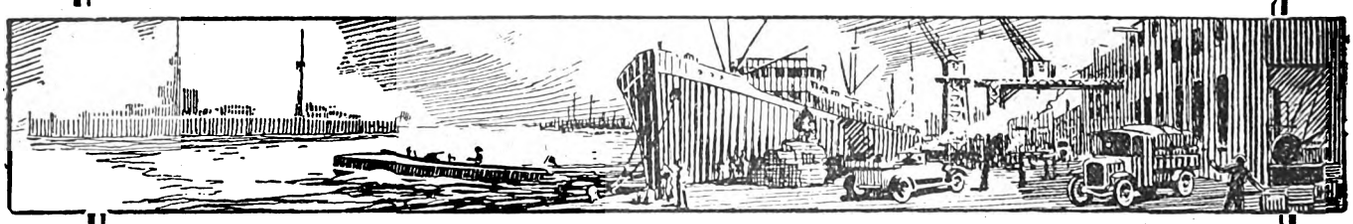

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

October 23, 1924 (New Style).
October 10, 1924 (Old Style).
Rabia I, 24, 1343 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tishri 25, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Herbert Dering arrived last week in Paris from Bucharest.

Prince and Princess Paul of Serbia left London last week for Paris.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip S. Taylor left London yesterday for Cairo.

General Sir Claud Jacob had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace last Friday.

Princess Ileana of Roumania visited Their Majesties at Buckingham Palace last Thursday afternoon.

Lord Olivier, Secretary of State for India, had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace on October 14.

The Albanian Minister has removed to 137, Beaufort Street, Chelsea, S.W.3. (Telephone, Kensington 1094.)

Colonel von Antonesco, Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, returned to London last evening from Brussels.

Mr. Ray Atherton, formerly Secretary at the United States Legation at Athens, has been transferred to the Embassy in London.

Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner in Palestine, left Jerusalem last week for Geneva, to attend the meeting of the Mandates Commission.

The King has granted authority to Lieut.-Colonel Benjamin Biggar, M.B., R.A.M.C., for the wearing of the insignia of the Order of the Nile, 3rd Class.

Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby, British High Commissioner in Egypt, and Viscountess Allenby, left London last Thursday for Vienna, where they are making a short stay before proceeding to Cairo.

Aziz Izzet Pasha, Egyptian Minister in London, who accompanied the Egyptian Premier to Paris, returned to London on October 20. Mohamed Fehmy Hussein Bey, Counsellor, acted as Chargé d'Affaires during his absence.

Sir George and Lady Elliot, Sir Stuart Montagu Samuel, and Sir R. Drummond Hay were among the passengers in the P. and O. liner Naldera, which left London on October 17 for Bombay.

Under the auspices of the Central Asian Society, Lieut.-Colonel H. F. Jacob is lecturing to-morrow (Friday) on "The Yemen," at 5 p.m. The lecture will be given, with lantern illustrations, at the Royal United Service Institution.

The marriage took place on October 15, at St. Matthew's, Bayswater, of Maurice Turner, younger son of Sir Montagu and Lady Turner, 9, Palace Court, W.2, and Hilda Helen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Findlay, of Glasslaw, Stonehaven, Kincardineshire.

On October 26, at 3 p.m., the sixth anniversary of the Republic of Czecho-Slovakia will be celebrated in an Anglo-Czech Service, which will be held in Christ Church, Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.1. The Anniversary preacher is to be the Rev. Thos. Nightingale, D.D.

The marriage arranged between Sir Percy Lyham Loraine, Bt., of Styford Hall, Stocksfield-on-Tyne, British Minister to Persia, and Louise, elder daughter of Major-General the Hon. Edward and Mrs. Stuart-Wortley, of Highcliffe Castle, Hampshire, will take place to-day at St. Mark's, North Audley Street.

Major-General George Swinley, C.B., Royal Artillery (retired), of Fauconberg Villas, Cheltenham, Gloucs., who saw much service on the Indian Frontier before the Afghan War, when he took part in Roberts's famous march to Kabul, and died on July 26, left estate of the gross value of £2,319, with net personalty £2,156.

The marriage of Lieut.-Colonel Neil Graham Stewart-Richardson, D.S.O., late Seaforth Highlanders and North Irish Horse, son of the late Sir James Stewart-Richardson, Bt., and the Dowager Lady Stewart-Richardson, with Alexandra, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ralli, of 11, Hyde Park Gardens, W.2, will take place to-day at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

The King received in audience at Buckingham Palace last Thursday morning His Excellency M. Pantcho Haji-Misheff, to present his Letter of Credence as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Kingdom of Bulgaria, and His Excellency Zekiai Bey, to present his Letter of Credence as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Turkey.

CORRECTION.

We regret that a mistake was made in last week's "Personal and General" in regard to the Persian Consulate in London. Mirza Morteza Gazvini is the Consul for Persia in London, and not the Acting Consul-General as previously stated.

Mlle. Diddie Vlasto, the tennis champion of France, is to be married at the Greek Church in Paris on October 25. The bridegroom to be is M. Stephy Lagonico, to whom Mlle. Vlasto became engaged last summer. The daughter of a Greek, Mlle. Vlasto was born in Marseilles.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1924.

ENGLAND AND INDIA.

We referred briefly last week to the widely accepted view that the present political situation in India is dominated by the dream of a change in the attitude of England, and by the belief that a new Constitution can be dictated successfully if only the demand is put forward with sufficient vehemence by a temporary union of discordant elements. India has already suffered so much from dreams and unfounded beliefs of this description that it will be worth while to examine this matter in somewhat greater detail, to recall the essential facts, and to restate the position as it stands to-day. A study of what is called, rather loosely, the literature of the General Election now in progress ought to convince any reasonable Indian that the assumed change in the attitude of England has no foundation in fact. We have before us the official programmes of the three great parties. Neither Labour men nor Liberals offer any hint of such a change, while the Conservative leaders take their stand definitely on the Constitution of 1919, as laying down a policy to be carried out in the letter and in the spirit, without yielding to the demands of factions or misguided agitation. The silence of the other two parties is perhaps even more significant than the outspoken declaration of the Conservatives. Their manifestos are designed to attract votes, and we may be quite sure that the astute gentlemen who framed them recognise that no considerable body of voters could be attracted by any promise of a change in Indian policy. For the time, at least, India is out of politics, the existing Constitution is a settled fact, and Englishmen in the mass ask only that it shall be given a fair chance.

At the same time, there is undoubtedly a change of feeling, though not of attitude, among Englishmen—a change which may be described as disappointment and growing uneasiness. Five years ago, practically everyone agreed that the offer of a gradual advance towards responsible government was the right thing to do; but in some circles there was doubt of its practicability in the conditions which existed. To-day, as the direct result of India's response to the offer, that doubt is more widespread. The man in the street has been impressed, first by the preaching of the doctrine of hate, more recently and more deeply by the accumulated evidence that the preachers have succeeded in their self-imposed task. He has witnessed recurring displays of puerility where he hoped for signs of adolescence. He has heard ugly stories of intimidation or corruption, not merely in the constituencies, but in the legislatures themselves. He has noted a widening gap between words and acts, a conspicuous lack of political courage, a conspicuous fluidity of political creed, and, speaking generally, he finds it difficult to detect in the young plant the promise of that healthy growth of self-government for which he hoped. Observers who are in a position to look more deeply into the facts, find a common origin of these varied symptoms. In their view, India has not as yet set seriously to work to produce the conditions necessary for self-government. She is still obsessed with the old ideas of despotism and oligarchy, and the declared readiness of Parliament to abdicate has operated mainly as a signal to sections and interests and factions, to endeavour to grasp the sceptre for themselves. It is well, therefore, to say plainly, what is universally taken for granted in this country—that Parliament is not aiming at a new oligarchy, be it of Brahmans or Bolshevists, of Moslems or mill-owners, of sweepers or Sikhs. What England is looking for is some sign of the beginnings of a nation organised on democratic lines, with more rights for the little men, and heavier duties for the big. If and when such a nation comes into view, Parliament will not be slow to recognise it: but, whatever it may do, it will not throw down the sceptre to be scrambled for among contesting factions.

It must not, however, be inferred that the last five years have brought only disappointment. It is freely recognised in this country that Indians have demonstrated their capacity for parliamentary business, and, what is of greater practical importance, for committee work, which is politics with the fireworks left outside. It is being recognised, also, that the area of political interest has extended, and, in particular, that in some localities the masses of the people are beginning to concern themselves with questions which hitherto have been decided over their heads. The future depends largely on the progress of this movement, for when the masses claim their new rights, the classes will quickly learn to take up the burden of their new duties, and then the conditions will become favourable for further constitutional advance; but at the moment the most important thing is that the political machinery already created should be made to work, and the way thus opened for the speedy assimilation of these new elements as they come forward in their turn. It is in the working of this machinery that the failure of the political classes has been most conspicuous. As yet, even a beginning has scarcely been made in devising a system of relations between Ministers and their supporters in the legislatures, or between legislators and their minute constituencies, nor has there been any real attempt to organise and instruct public opinion outside the charmed circle, though organised attempts to delude it may unhappily have obtained a momentary success. It would, of course, be unreasonable to expect that these tasks should have been accomplished in the short time which has elapsed since the Constitution was promulgated; the disappointment which exists results not from the lack of concrete achievement, but from the absence of signs of progress, and still more of the will to go steadily forward. It is still permissible to hope that these unfavourable symptoms arise from temporary causes, some of which are already losing their importance: but the fact remains that time has been lost, and if Parliament were to make an immediate investigation of the position, the verdict would inevitably be that India has fallen behind the schedule, not, as her politicians now insist, that she is far ahead. That is the essential point for Indians to realise. In the words of the Constitution, the future action of Parliament must be guided by the co-operation received from those on whom new opportunities of service have been conferred. The response has so far been disappointing, and England is now watching, with an anxiety which tends to increase, for such a development of practical effort as will afford a justification for the action already taken, and a reasonable guarantee for greater progress in the future.

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EGYPT UNDER THE TURKS AND BEYS, 1517-1811.

By F. W. BUCKLER.

(*Continued from page* 404.)

[*The following lecture was delivered on August 19 at the Cambridge University Summer School, and was preceded by lectures on the history of Egypt under Muslim rule down to 1517, given by Mrs. R. L. Devonshire, and on the history of Egypt from the time of Mohammed Ali to the eve of the Great War, given by Sir John Marriot. Between these two periods, as Mr. Buckler pointed out, lie three centuries of Egyptian history—a dismal record of oppression and tyranny. "There was," he said in the introduction to his lecture, "no hope of peace and good rule in Egypt until Mohammed Ali made good the neglect of Salim the Grim and exterminated the Mamluk Beys in 1811. That was his crowning triumph and greatest service to Egypt."*—Ed.]

I have dwelt at length upon the settlement of Salim and his successor, Sulaiman the Magnificent, because that settlement endured until it was overthrown by Mohammed Ali, who succeeded in replacing the precarious tenure of the old *Pasha's* office with a more stable hereditary *Pashalik*, whose holder was ultimately known as *Khadiv*. It may be worth while to notice here that *Khadiv* only means "deputy," as does *Khalifat*, *nayat*, and *nawat*, but it is usually applied to the office when a full delegation of royal authority has been made.

From 1566—the death of Sulaiman the Great—down to 1758, when we find the beginning of the rise of Ali Bey, Egypt was, on the whole, left alone to enjoy the pleasures of Mamluk rule. The Turk was far too intent on the development of his European policy to interfere in Egyptian affairs save at the expense of viceregal authority. Further, he was beginning to feel the pressure of Russia and a war with Nadir, Shah of Persia, and though the latter menace was fleeting, the former proved to be a constant factor in Turkish policy. Under these circumstances Egypt was called upon for tribute and occasionally to supply the force of 12,000 men, a duty imposed from the first. But a more important feature began to appear in the separatist tendency which marked the next century. The Russian menace of Turkey provided any *pasha* or other ruler who saw its value with a counterbalance to the Mamluk check on supreme authority, and so the entry of the Great Powers in the domestic policy of Egypt began under Catherine the Great of Russia, it was continued by Napoleon, and has lasted down to the present day. This revolution, by which Egypt was gradually to pass from the imperial to the foreign policy of Turkey was mainly the work of two men—Ali Bey and Mohammed Ali. With the Western aspect of their foreign policy we are not to-day primarily concerned. Our task is rather to watch the effect on Egypt, both internally and as part of the Ottoman Empire.

The link between Egypt and Constantinople was Syria and Palestine, and in this region there was much discontent with the management of affairs by the Porte, particularly among the ruling *pashas*, whose insecurity of tenure, combined with their distance from Constantinople, led them to strengthen their positions so that they could resist attacks. They were in communication, too, with one or other of the parties in Egypt, and on Egyptian support those who were inclined to rebellion tended to rely. They, moreover, provided places of refuge for deposed officials in Egypt. The beauty of the orders of an absolute government lies in the fact that they must be obeyed *absolutely*. For instance, if A is ordered to execute B in a certain place C, and B can escape to D before the order arrives, then B is not in C, and therefore cannot be executed. A fresh order is necessary, and by the time it is ready it is, as often as not, an order revoking the former order and confirming B in his office. The career of Ali Bey brings out almost all of these points.

Before proceeding to an account of his life, it may be worth while to compare his position with that of Mohammed Ali half a century later. Both aimed at the establishment in Egypt of a government far from the interference of the Porte; both, to achieve this end, relied on the Great Powers of Europe to a greater or less degree; both relied on Mamluk support for a time; both regarded Syria as the key to their positions in Egypt. But there was an essential difference in the position of each. Ali Bey was a Mamluk, and looked to the restoration of the glories of the Circassian Dynasty—as Professor Margoliouth has pointed out, his cry was not "Egypt for the Egyptians," but "Egypt for the Mamluks." But for the treason of his son-in-law—Abu Dahab—he might have succeeded in his object. But the revival would have been reactionary—Ali Bey was Oriental, and regarded the infidel West merely as an instrument to achieve his end. Not so Mohammed Ali. He, too, was Oriental—a Turk—but he had gained a great affection for the French, owing to the kindness of M. Lion, a French merchant at Kavalla, and from his intercourse with him Mohammed saw some of the possibilities of Western organisation. He was proud of his birth being in the same year as Napoleon, and it was as a second Napoleon that Mohammed Ali went to Egypt, and his rise was rendered possible by precisely the same causes as had rendered possible the rise of Napoleon—namely, the unwillingness of the central government to pay for warfare as long as the victims of war could be made to pay for the privilege of being conquered. If Ali Bey's cry was "Egypt for the Mamluks," Mohammed Ali's cry was "Egypt for Mohammed Ali," and it was only European pressure that restored his allegiance to the Ottoman Sultan. To read into either movement any element of "nationality" is to misinterpret entirely the underlying historical motive—unless, of course, one's interpretation of nationality is sufficiently cynical to deprive it of its most popular illusions! Mohammed Ali suffered under no delu-

ASK FOR WHITE HORSE WHISKY BY APPOINTMENT.

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sions—of that his treatment of the Greek revolts in 1825 are sufficient proof. His object was personal—to be a great king, and as he himself said, "A great king recognises only his sword and his purse; he draws the one to fill the other." An honest enough statement, far removed from the accepted ideas of nationality!

Ali Bey was born probably in Abazan, in the Caucasus, about 1728. Little is known for certain about his early life, but there is a tradition that he was the son of a Greek priest named Daud (David), and that his baptismal name was Yusuf (Joseph). This gives us the warning, for the rest of the story resembles that of another Joseph who also went to Egypt, and the mythopoeic element in the history of Ali Bey may have arisen from his later precautions in the matter of corn in times of plenty. Only a Joseph *could* do such things in Egypt! So at thirteen years of age the young Yusuf went a-hunting, was captured by robbers, who brought him to Cairo, where he was sold to Ibrahim, the Aga of the Janissaries. Ibrahim promptly initiated him into the Muslim faith and clothed him in Mamluk dress. He was placed under instructors in the Faith in Turkish and Arabic, and though the loss of his parents and home troubled him for a time, he soon settled down under the kind treatment he received from his new master. He performed the usual services of the Mamluk, and was trained in the arts of war and horsemanship, in which his keenness and prowess soon earned for him the title of "the Madman." He was promoted in the household of his master, until he attained the rank of Sword-bearer and Treasurer. His ability in the latter capacity ultimately obtained for him the promotion to the governorship of a town in his master's *Sanjak* at the age of (about) twenty-two. As a Governor his conduct met with such approval that he was elected Bey a few years later. Now there was another who had expected promotion from the Aga Ibrahim: he was Ibrahim the Circassian, who became the sworn enemy of Ali Bey, and rewarded his master with the supreme penalty in 1757. The next six years were occupied by Ali Bey in his attempt to become *Sheik ul-Balad*, or Mayor of Cairo, which he achieved in 1763, and that step placed him at the head of the Beys. He was now in a position to avenge his master's death and remove a dangerous rival. The motive which prevailed is difficult to ascertain, but the cynic may well be wrong, for friendship in the East is a very close bond, and the relations of a Mamluk with his chief were of the closest.

(To be concluded.)

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RELIGIONS WITHIN THE EMPIRE.

The Conference on Living Religions Within the Empire, organised, under the presidency of Sir E. Denison Ross, by the School of Oriental Studies and the Sociological Society, was held at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, from September 22 to October 23. The papers read at this conference are to be published in full in book form, but our readers may welcome brief *résumés* of those which dealt with Islam and Bahaism.

ISLAM.

The session devoted to Islam was presided over by Dr. Margoliouth, and during it three discourses by eminent Muslims were delivered.

"The Basic Principles of Islam" was the subject of the paper written by Al Haj Khwaja Kamal-ud-Din, and was read by Mr. Yusif Ali. It consisted of a careful exegesis of the teaching of the Koran. Opening with the Muslim Theory of Religion, the writer explained that man enters the world pure and untainted, with the highest capacities before him, but capable of declension. Religion is, therefore, a guidance and a discipline to lead man aright. There are seven evolutionary stages, each one of which was explained in turn, beginning with the lowest, The Commanding (*Ammarah*), passing to The Self-Accusing (*Lawwana*), on to The Inspired (*Mulhima*). Then comes At Rest (*Mutaima*), Pleased with God (*Radiah*), Pleasing to God (*Mardiah*), and, finally, Perfected (*Kamilah*). Islam uplifts from the first to the last; that is its function. It controls every action, illuminates every aspect of life—personal, domestic, civic, and spiritual. There are five pillars of Islam: (1) The Formula of Faith in God and acceptance of Muhammad as His Messenger; (2) Prayer, Fasting, Charity, and Pilgrimage to Mecca. Similarly, the vices which obscure our progress were analysed and refuted from Koranic authority. The social influence of Islam was set forth in eloquent passages, and the moral qualities that are generated in man by obedience to the faith—chastity, honesty, meekness, politeness, forgiveness, goodness, courage, truthfulness, patience, sympathy, and kindness. The position of woman, said the lecturer, was elevated by Islam to equality with man, and the meaning of Paradise was aptly explained. Material progress was the closing subject of an admirable, stimulating, and lucid exposition of the basic principles of Islam, which, apart from a few details, may be considered characteristic of all schools of thought that have arisen within the system.

A paper of a different character by Sheikh Kadhim Dojaily came next. The Sheikh is a learned Arab of Baghdad, and had undertaken to describe something of the Shiah branch of Islam. The audience listened to a historical statement of the origin and development of the Shiah movement with the greatest interest. Forming about one-third of the Moslems, they are chiefly found in Persia, Mesopotamia, Bahrain, and India, and are now divided into three main groups, according as they adhere to "The Principles," "The Reports," or to "Revelation." The first group maintain that man can make original contributions both to the principles and the derivative matter in religion; the second do not admit of "following," but stand by the Koran; the third group show great reverence to their Imams, and allow their great claims to spiritual power on earth.

The Sheikh then dealt with opinions common to all Shii, the one which differentiates them from other Moslems being the special belief as to the proper succession from Mohammed. As to the Khalifate, they hold that the Khalif is invisible, and has appointed no deputy.

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Then came the paper by Al Haj, the Khalifat al Mirza Massiah Bashir ud Din, head of the Ahmadiyya movement, which has its headquarters at Qadian, in the Punjab. Supported by a band of green-turbaned scholars, the Khalifat al Massiah made a fine, impressive picture. His movement is about thirty-four years old, being founded by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad hence the name Ahmadiyya) in 1890. He claimed to be the Madhi and the Messiah of ancient prophecy. He met great opposition, but with increasing success. The speaker is the third in succession to the founder. Missions have been sent to many countries. Ahmadiyyah claims to be the outcome of Islam, just as Christianity was of Judaism, an inevitable and necessary development, not to be as a new law, but to expound anew the teachings of Islam. The claim to be the Messiah was not a claim to be identical with Jesus, but to have received His power and spirit. The speaker gave great attention to showing that this age is one destined for the fulfilment of the promises of the ancient prophecy, and a long argument followed to prove that God still guides and inspires men as in the olden days. The speaker then gave a doctrinal discourse on what he described as regenerated Islam, beginning with the belief in the unity of God, upon which all other excellencies of belief and conduct depend. Finally, the speaker concluded by affirming the necessity of applying the moral qualities generated by religion to sociological and political problems.

BAHAISM.

First a paper was read by Mr. Mountford Mills, Bahai delegate from Canada. The paper began by referring to an address given by Abdul Baha in the City Temple, London, on September 10, 1911, in which he said: "There is one God; mankind is one; the foundations of religions are one. Let us worship Him, and give praise for *all* His great prophets and messengers who have manifested His brightness and glory." Thus there is no need to assert the fact that the Baha's cause seeks no competitive victory among the world's religions, and lays no additional frontiers among the boundaries already dividing mankind into different creeds, but rather its ideal is unity consciously binding the hearts of men. The origin of the cause coincided in point of time with the beginnings of what is considered the opening of a new era in human development. In Persia, between May 23, 1844, and July 9, 1850, occurred that remarkable series of events known to history as the "Episode of the Bab," though prior to this period the teaching had already spread in that country that a new spiritual leader would arise. Mirza Ali Muhammad, who took the title of the Gate (Bab), was this new leader, and within the short six years which elapsed between his declaration and his martyrdom he had succeeded in shattering the age-long inertia of Persia and in enlisting a large following. But he always asserted that he was but the forerunner of a greater than himself. This greater messenger of truth was Mirza Husayn Ali, a scion of a noble and wealthy Persian family, who was one of the foremost supporters of the Bab, and after suffering much in person and possessions at the hands of the priests of the established religion, was exiled to Baghdad and subsequently to Akka. It was just previous to his departure from Baghdad that Baha'ullah, as he had come to be known, declared that he was the one foretold by the Bab. His teachings were largely by letters, as all direct communication with his adherents was cut off during his forty years' imprisonment. These teachings reflected no acquired learning, but were the immediate experience in the soul of one who turned wholly and directly to God. According to them, religion is not one of life's aspects, but the predominant spirit expressing itself through all aspects; and again he teaches that all the founders of religion are successive, co-related expressions of the Will of God, identical as to purpose and function, diverse only in that each founder adapted the one divine teaching to the particular needs of his time. A brief summary of these teachings is that they comprise almost equally an interpretation of the fundamentally true in all religions, and encouragement and exhortation to respond with spirit, mind, and soul to the newer and greater possibilities of this age.

After the passing of Baha'ullah, May 28, 1892, his eldest son, Abdul Baha Abbas, succeeded as executive head of the cause and ex-founder of the teachings. These two duties Sir Abdul Baha Abbas, K.B.E., carried out with such success that the Bahai cause not only continued to progress in the land of its origin, but was carried far and wide over the earth, notably in the United States of America; and it has been through the words and writings of Abdul Baha that the essential principles of the cause received their direct applications to problems peculiar to Western civilisation. These essential principles are twelve, viz.: The oneness of the world of humanity; independent investigation of truth; the foundation of all religions is one; religion must be the cause of unity among mankind; religion must be in accord with science and reason; equality of men and women; abandonment of all prejudices; universal peace; universal education; solution of the economic question; a universal language; and international tribunal.

Next a paper was read by Mr. Ruhi Afnan, grandson of Abdul Baha. This dealt more particularly with the profound changes wrought by the Bahai principles in the lives of their followers. Baha'ullah, to reconcile the religions, laid it down as a guiding principle that the purpose of religion is to provide a social bond, to create a new force in man's life, to infuse in him the love of all his fellow-creatures. In order to eliminate the root cause of all forms of class hatred he proclaimed, "Do ye know why we have created you from one clay? That no one should exalt himself over another." Critics unable to deny the beauty and the force of Baha'ullah's teachings have yet maintained that they were but lofty ideals incapable of practical application to man's everyday life. This has, however, been abundantly proved not to be the case, as is evidenced by the progress which has been made in many directions in the amelioration of social conditions and the increasing tendency to consider many questions from an international rather than from the narrower national point of view. In the East, especially in Persia, the achievements of the Bahai cause have been great. In all Bahai communities where the means could be found schools have been opened for the education not only of boys, but more especially of girls, since Baha'ullah has stated that the latter must receive preferential treatment in the matter of education, being the prospective mothers of future generations, and thus the first teachers of

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their offspring. In the West, where more progress had already been made by legislation, its influence has been mainly to create the spirit of international brotherhood and to wipe out religious, social and economic prejudices. The evidence from all countries where the Bahai cause has gained followers, and they are many, goes to prove the realisation of Abdul Baha's words, "The spirit of the cause is pulsating in the arteries of mankind."

"THE MOSLEM WORLD."

The October issue of *The Moslem World* contains extremely interesting matter, and, indeed, all its articles are well worth reading. They include "Latest Developments on the Khalifate Question," by Professor D. S. Margoliouth, "The Khalifate," by "Alun Yale," "Four Months in Nejd," by Dr. L. P. Dame, "Islam the Religion of Peace," by Muhammed Din, "A New Day in Persia," by Abraham Moorhatch, and "The New Mesopotamia," by H. A. Bilkert.

Of these we may single out, as especially valuable, Professor Margoliouth's article, Dr. Dame's, and Mr. Bilkert's. Professor Margoliouth takes what may now be described as the orthodox Arabist's view of Turkey's treatment of the Khalifate—it was "much more the frank recognition of a *fait accompli* than the infliction of a blow on Islam." Further, in view of the Wahhabi advance upon the Hejaz, Turkey is well out of the former obligation to provide liberty to all Moslems to perform the *haj*, for the probability is that, as happened last century, the Wahhabis will refuse all but the orthodox access to the Holy Places. It was not, he says, the Assembly of Angora which lost the Khalifate to the Ottomans, but a disastrous war for Turkey which involved the loss of Arabia.

Dr. Dame's story of his four months' stay in Nejd, begun in November of last year, has a very definite topical value. He personally paid medical attention to Ibn Saoud at Riyadh, and was able to gain first-class impressions of the Wahhabis. He is of the opinion that the Ikhwan movement is on the wane, and that Nejd is getting used to the ways of the foreigner. He further visited such places as Shukra, Aneyza, and Boreida, which previously no doctor had ever been to. Altogether, an unusually "full" article.

Mr. Bilkert's article on Mesopotamia notes the growth, apart from the tribesmen, of national feeling, the intellectual awakening and the thirst for Western education. Papers are very widely produced and read. Young Iraqis are turning their backs on Mohammedanism, Christianity, and Judaism for the softer paths of agnosticism and atheism. Finally, the whole country is now in a state of flux, so that the present is the time to introduce improvements, before Mesopotamian society becomes, as it inevitably must, once more fixed.

INDIAN ART REVIVAL IN BOMBAY.

The India Society has organised a lecture for to-day (Thursday), at 8.15 p.m., at 21, Cromwell Road. Captain Gladstone Solomon, the Director of the Bombay School of Art, will lecture on the above subject, and will illustrate his remarks with examples of the work of his students, lent by courtesy of Sir George Lloyd (late Governor of Bombay), who during his tenure of office did so much to encourage the movement. The India Society intends this to be the first of a series of lectures to illustrate the progress of modern Indian art in the various provinces. The chair will be taken by Sir Francis Younghusband. Capt. Gladstone Solomon will deliver a similar lecture in Paris at the beginning of November under the auspices of the "Association Francaise des Amis de l'Orient," with which the India Society is in co-operation.

A LONDON MOSQUE.

On October 19, under the auspices of the Ahmadiyya Islamic community, the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the first London Mosque was performed at 63, Melrose Road, Southfields, S.W.18. His Holiness the Khalifatul Masih presided over the function. This is the first Mosque in London erected by Moslems themselves. The building, when completed, will, it is estimated, have cost about £10,000.

Father Raphael Roditch, a Franciscan Friar, has been appointed Catholic Archbishop of Belgrade.

The appointment is gazetted of Sir Stanley Fisher (Chief Justice, Cyprus) to be the Chief Justice of Trinidad and Tobago.

Kemel Pasha, who has been appointed Turkish Ambassador in Berlin, arrived there last week, and has taken up his duties.

The Ottoman Prince Seif-ed-Din Effendi arrived last week from Beyrout, in Marseilles, on his way to join his brother, the Khalif Abdul Mejid, on the Riviera.

Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, and Yugoslavia are among the countries which have signed the Arbitration Protocol passed by the recent Assembly of the League of Nations.

Mgr. Damianos, the Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, has sent a delegation to Belgrade, which on October 17 invested King Alexander with the decoration of the Order of the Guardians of the Holy Sepulchre.

Georgian insurgents stopped an express train recently between Kutais and Rion, and after robbing the passengers of their money and valuables, shot three Communist members of the Kutais' Executive Committee and one Communist newspaper correspondent.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The German Loan.

As anticipated, the German Loan was an overwhelming success. The amount required was £12,000,000, and the applications amounted to between £150,000,000 and £160,000,000. In this over-subscription the "stags" undoubtedly played their part, probably, indeed, a very important rôle. Obviously, the allotment to applicants will represent only a small percentage of their applications. It was inevitable, of course, that all people should not see eye to eye in the matter of this loan, and one can well understand that a very large number of individuals would be unable to support it in any circumstances. But it has to be regarded as a disagreeable necessity. The ultimate result may or may not be disastrous—as to that time alone can prove—but it is very certain that there can be no real revival of world trade with Germany, so to speak, out of the market, and it is only by taking a risk that the world can have a real chance to recover from the effects of the war.

The Cotton Situation.

The position with regard to the supply of raw cotton is very interesting. At a time when trade is definitely reviving it would have been deplorable if the shortage of the commodity which has so long been foreseen as a probability were to become a *fait accompli*, for if there is one thing that would check business it is dear cotton. However, as fate would have it, crops all round promise to be particularly good this year, and it appears certain now, provided there is not an abnormal demand for cotton goods, that we may see cotton at a relatively cheap price. It has been expected that the American crop will be in the neighbourhood of 13,000,000 bales, but the forecasts are improving, and it may well turn out that the yield will be well in advance of that figure. As regards the Egyptian crop, the expectation is that it will be over seven million kantars, so that the position generally, if these figures are borne out, will be most favourable. It must be emphasised, however, that, because the crop this year may be sufficient to meet the modified requirements of the world, there must still be no slackening in the work of developing cotton growing within the Empire. There can be no real security from Lancashire's point of view until the supplies of cotton grown within the Empire are sufficient to make us practically independent of the changes and chances of crops in other parts of the world. And that, unfortunately, will take a long time to accomplish.

Prospects for Wembley in 1925.

A factor of considerable importance in weighing the prospects of the Wembley Exhibition next year (should it be decided to continue it) is the International Exhibition that is to be opened in Paris in April. Visitors from abroad to Wembley have been far below expectations, and this has been due to two things—the prevailing economic situation, and inadequate publicity. By next spring conditions in general will have greatly improved, if present indications are to be relied upon, and it may be taken for granted that the Paris Exhibition will attract very large numbers of visitors from all parts of the Continent, and not least from the Near East. Once they are in Paris, and relatively so near Wembley, it is extremely probable that they will take the opportunity of visiting the Exhibition here also, provided, of course, that its attractions are adequately brought before their notice.

A Bank for Iraq.

It was inevitable that sooner or later the suggestion should be made that a national bank should be established in Iraq. Recently the banks with branches in the country were invited to give their views on the subject, and I understand that the Imperial Ottoman Bank has made certain proposals to the authorities. There for the moment the matter stands, but while the anticipation of any rapid development would perhaps be unwise, it may be expected that in a not distant future something may be done on the lines indicated.

The Burmah Dividend.

The announcement of an interim dividend of 12½ per cent., less tax, by the Burmah Oil Company, as against 10 per cent., was in accordance with expectations. It came, nevertheless, as a welcome fillip to the market, which has been none too cheerful for some time, as a result of a variety of reasons, chief among them being the fall in oil prices. We shall shortly be having the report of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Company, which is, needless to say, being eagerly awaited on account of the report of the excellent progress that is being made by this concern.

Rubber Still Rising.

Since I last wrote the price of rubber has continued to creep up, very slowly, it is true, but none the less steadily, and at the time of writing the raw commodity now stands at about 1s. 4½d. It is now all but certain that there will be a further restriction of 5 per cent. at the end of this month, and that brings us within sight of a much higher price for rubber, for the existing stocks are rapidly decreasing, and we are approaching a point when

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there will be a very definite shortage of the commodity. In my opinion the next three months will see rubber reach a price considerably above that at which it now stands, and in the circumstances the prospects for holders of rubber shares must be reckoned as extremely good. So far the share market has scarcely reflected the movement of the commodity, but it will certainly do so after the next restriction.

COMMENTATOR.

BULGARIA'S SUNFLOWER OIL SEED CRUSHING INDUSTRY.

(*From a Correspondent.*)

Though this industry has not yet assumed a place in the forefront of Bulgarian exports, it is forging its way ahead slowly but surely. It was found last year that Paris was a large consumer of this oil, which was required to replace Chinese wood oil and also Kauri gum from New Zealand. The former had risen in price to £112 per ton, and for the latter the demand is much greater than the supply. This oil and gum are used in the manufacture of varnishes, linoleums, etc.

There was, therefore, a large export from Bulgaria, who could place her sunflower seed oil in France at about £80 a ton. This had a serious effect in Bulgaria, where this oil is used for cooking purposes, for the country is quite able to consume the whole of the present production. Sunflower seed oil had to be imported from Roumania and South Russia to meet the requirements of the country, and prices rose to 48 levas per kilo, whereas the sales to France were made on a basis of 40 levas per kilo. The result of this has been that this year there is nearly three times the area planted with sunflower seed, and it is calculated that there will now be sufficient oil for the requirements of the country and also several thousand tons for export.

As with most other industries of this country, this industry is suffering from want of capital. The peasant will not sow until he is assured that whatever crop he produces will be taken over by the mills, and he requires and receives from the mill-owners advances from the day the plant breaks its way through the soil. The mill-owners who can crush, say, 3 tons of seed per day (this is the present average crushing of the mills here) have not got the capital to be able to advance 50 per cent. of the value of the seed before they receive it, the ruling price now being 6 levas per kilo: therefore, they in their turn approach interested parties and endeavour to sell ahead not only the oil, but also the residue, known as sunflower oil seed cake, which is a very valuable cattle food, and finds a very ready market in Germany and other countries. It depends entirely upon the success of the mill-owners in finding buyers who are willing to give advances on the potential output of the mills as to how many months in the year the mills can work.

Both the quality of the oil and the cake depend, not only on the quality of the seed crop, but also on the method of crushing; and each district appears to produce a cake and an oil of different quality and, therefore, value. The newer mills with up-to-date crushing plant produce a cake of very low quality, the old peasant mills producing an article rich in both oil and protein. The analysis of a sample taken from a peasant mill last year showed 55 per cent. of oil and protein, whereas an up-to-date mill run by an experienced man showed only 43 per cent. of oil and protein. The harvest this year, though satisfactory as regards quantity, is not of good quality; the seeds are smaller and thinner.

Owing to the bad forage harvesting season in Europe this year there is at present a large demand for oil cake. In May of this year cake of good quality could be purchased for 1.50 to 1.80 levas per kilo. This price has gradually advanced, and cake is to-day quoted at 3.50 to 3.60 levas per kilo franco mill.

CHESS.

BY "CARO-KANN."

The season's activities have still to commence, and so news is at a discount. The League matches will be beginning in a few days, and the end of the month will see many of the tournaments in progress. Next week I shall be in a position to give the competitors in some of the principal tournaments.

The following game was played in the British Championship at Southport between Mr. H. E. Price (White) and Mr. F. D. Yates (Black):—1, P—K4, P—K4; 2, Kt—KB3, Kt—QB3; 3, B—Kt5, P—QR3; 4, B—R4, Kt—B3; 5, Castles, P—Q3; 6, R—K1, B—K2; 7, P—B3, Castles; 8, P—Q4, P—QKt4; 9, B—Kt3, B—Kt5; 10, B—K3, QKt—R4; 11, B—B2, Kt—B5; 12, P—QKt3, Kt x B; 13, R x Kt, Kt—Q2; 14, P—KR3, B—R4; 15, P—KKt4, B—Kt3; 16, QKt—Q2, P—QB3; 17, Kt—B1, Q—B2; 18, Kt—Kt3 (a), B—B3; 19, K—Kt2, KR—K1; 20, P—KR4, P—Q4 (b); 21, P—Kt5, P x P; 22, Kt—R2, P x P; 23, P x P, B—K2; 24, P—R5, KB x P; 25, P x B, B x R; 26, P x BP ch, K x P; 27, P x B, Kt—B3; 28, Kt—Kt4, K—Kt1; 29, Kt x Kt ch, P x Kt; 30, Q—R5, K—R1; 31, R—R1, R—K2; 32, Q—B5, R—Kt2; 33, R—R3, Q—R4; 34, B x P, Q—Q7 ch; 35, K—B1, QR—R2; 36, Kt—K2, QR—KB2; 37, Q—B8 ch, R—Kt1; 38, Q—K6, KR—B1; 39, Q—B5, K—Kt1; 40, R x RP, Resigns.

(a) White now has a position with distinct attacking possibilities, while the movements of Black are somewhat circumscribed.

(b) P—R3 was necessary to make a loophole for the Bishop in the face of the imminent advance of the King's side Pawns.

Piræus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway 4½ per Cent. Bonds.—The coupons and drawn bonds, due October 15, are now being paid at the office of Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons, Austin Friars House, E.C.2.

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(By Our Engineering Representative.)

THE MOTOR SHOW.

It is the fashion to-day to make any occasion a pretext for superlatives, but one will certainly not be incurring the danger of being charged with undue exuberance in describing this year's Motor Show at Olympia as a wonderful exhibition. That it undoubtedly is. At each succeeding Motor Show since the War it has been possible to record an advance in the quality and variety of cars, and the present show is no exception; indeed, if anything, the progress that has been made in the industry is more notable on the present occasion. The Show affords overwhelming evidence of the progress made by British motor manufacturers, and I wish it were possible to say that, as a whole, they show the same enterprise and initiative in the export markets in which the foreigner is at present supreme that they do in turning out new models. It is possible at the Show to compare the British products with those of our foreign competitors, and it is perfectly evident that in this industry we have little to learn from abroad, that British cars of all varieties are fully capable of holding their own against foreign competition—that is, of course, under anything approaching equal conditions—and that if this country is not leading the way in the development of the motor it is not far from doing so. It is very evident indeed that British cars ought to be playing a much greater part in the export trade than they do, and it is to be hoped that with the generally improving political outlook abroad, which will mean the gradual development of trade, British manufacturers will endeavour to take advantage of the openings that exist in external markets, such as the Near East, and that it will be possible to look back on the Motor Show of 1924 as a landmark in the development of the trade.

The outstanding feature of the Show is value. There has been a further reduction in prices, while the quality is higher than ever. It is really amazing to learn what is now included in a moderately priced car. But a few years ago the same type of car would have been possible only for the rich. It just shows the advance that has been made that to-day the expenditure of relatively a few pounds will provide one with quite a serviceable car. Motoring is, in fact, in process of being democratised, and, considering to-day's prices, it would seem that the time when motoring can be almost anyone's pursuit has arrived. Certainly it is doubtful if cars will ever be very much cheaper than they are to-day. £90 is a small amount to pay for a motor, and at that figure a very useful car can be obtained, and while the moderate purse is thus catered for, there is an endless variety of makes and sizes to suit all tastes and all purses, ranging from modest two-seaters to the splendid luxury cars which have won a unique reputation for themselves throughout the world, and in regard to which there is not the slightest fear of foreign competition.

As usual, two of the outstanding attractions of the Show are the exhibits of Rolls-Royce and the Napier Company. Three cars are shown on the Rolls-Royce stand, all of them exquisite models, two being examples of the firm's 40-50 h.p. 6-cylinder car and the third being a 20 h.p. 6-cylinder car. Of the 40-50 h.p. models, one has an enclosed-drive cabriolet de ville body by Barker and Co., and is painted in silver grey and black, while the other has an enclosed-drive limousine body by Hooper and Co., and is painted in black with a white line. These are both six-seaters, while the 20 h.p. car seats two inside and has two seats in the dickey. The engine of this car is 3 bore by 4½ stroke, the Treasury rating being 21.6 h.p., and there are overhead valves, pump-water circulation, battery ignition, and a Rolls-Royce carburettor. The car has three forward speeds and brakes on the rear-wheel drums, and has a coupé cabriolet body by Windovers, painted blue and black. The Napier Company also shows three models of the 40-50 h.p. 6-cylinder—a saloon, a seven-seater limousine, and a coupé de ville seating six, the bodies in each case being by Cunard. I have dealt at length on previous occasions with the supreme excellence of the cars of these famous companies, and I do not propose to say more now than that their exhibits this year are fully in keeping with the reputation of these companies.

The stand of the Austin Motor Company is, as always, full of interest. There are two examples of the "Austin Twenty," an enclosed landaulette and a saloon, two of the "Austin Twelve," a saloon and a tourer, and an "Austin Seven" four-seater and an "Austin Seven" chassis. A feature of the cars is that they all have four-wheel brakes. The Crossley stand is also very interesting. Three types of cars are shown—the 14 h.p., the 19.6 h.p., and the 20-70 h.p.—and of the first-named there are on view a tourer, a saloon, and the chassis. Four wheel brakes are provided for all the models at a slight increase in the cost. The 14 h.p. model is an eminently workmanlike car, which can be thoroughly depended upon, and is just the type of motor to appeal to the ordinary motorist. The 19.6 car is too well known to need much recommendation. This car, it may be recalled, broke all R.A.C. certified trial car mileage records in 1923. The 20-70 h.p. car, which may be regarded as the perfect motor for rapid touring, has a guaranteed speed of 75 miles per hour, but withal is perfectly easy to handle.

The Rover Company show the "Rover Eight," their 9.20 h.p. car, and their 14.45 h.p. car and chassis. The "Rover Eight" is specially interesting. It has an engine 85 by 100 mm., single dry disc plate clutch, a three-speed gear box with central control and final worm drive. Without a self-starter, clock, or speedometer, the car is priced at £160, at which it is certain to be in great demand. The 9.20 h.p. is provided in two forms

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either as a single-door four-seater or as a four-seater with three doors, and complete equipment. The latter car has a ground clearance of 7 in. The 14.45 h.p., which is a new model, has an engine 75 bore by 120 stroke, with a single-plate clutch, four-speed gear box, and spiral bevel final drive, and has internal expanding brakes on all four wheels. The car has most graceful outlines, and should prove very popular. The Leyland Motors show the 10 h.p. Trojan with a four-seater body. The chassis has a two-pair two-stroke engine, 2½ bore by 4¾ stroke, water-cooled. It is primed and started from the driver's seat. Epicyclic gears are fitted, and there are two independent brakes, one acting on transmission and the other on the rear axle. There is petroil lubrication, with a special hot-spot separator. The design of the mudguards and hubs is such that pneumatic tyres can be fitted instead of solids, if that be desired. The four-seater has a two-piece windscreen, and is fitted with a folding hood and side curtains, and is an eminently serviceable car, and at the moderate price of £148 should be in great request.

The stand of Morris Motors is inevitably a centre of attraction. This firm are showing the 11.9 h.p. Morris Cowley model in two-seater and four-seater type, and also the chassis alone, while the 14.28 h.p. Morris-Oxford is shown as a four-five-seater and as a saloon. The 11.9 h.p. car has an engine 69 bore by 102 stroke, with thermo-syphon water circulation. There is a three forward speed gear-box and spiral bevel final drive, and the car is fitted with internal expanding brakes on the rear wheels. The wheelbase is 8 ft. 6 in., and there is a clearance of 8½ in. The two-seater takes two persons inside and two in a large dickey. The four-seater has side curtains, which form a rear windscreen when the car is open. The 14.28 h.p. model has an engine 75 bore by 102 stroke, with three forward speeds, the engine, clutch, and gear box being built as a unit. Internal expanding brakes are fitted on all four wheels, and the price of £285 includes an all-weather hood, speedometer, Boyce motometer, petrol gauge, a mixture regulator on the steering column, windscreen wiper, driving mirror, etc., and is one of the most admirably equipped cars ever put on the market at the price.

The stand of A.C. Cars shows two 16 h.p. cars and two 12 h.p. cars. One of the 16 h.p. cars is a four-seater. It has an engine 65 bore by 100 stroke, with overhead valves, pump-water circulation, and three forward speeds. The car has shock absorbers on both axles, and there is a ground clearance of 9 in. The body has four doors, and is painted in blue, and is a very admirable production. The other 16 h.p. model seats three people inside and two in the dickey, and has been designed to give the comfort of a closed or open car as desired. The 12 h.p. cars have an engine 69 bore by 100 stroke, with side by side valves, thermo syphon water circulation, pump lubrication, three forward speeds, and worm final drive. The ground clearance is 9 in. One of the cars is a Royal two-seater, which has provision for two persons also in a dickey. The other is a Sovereign model two-seater, which also accommodates four persons.

(To be concluded.)

INDIA'S TRADE IN AUGUST.

Increase in Imports.

H.M. Trade Commissioner in Calcutta, in a report on the foreign sea-borne trade of India during August, states :—

The trade returns of British India for the month of August, 1924, showed, as compared with the preceding month, an increase in the values of imports, coupled with decreases in exports and re-exports. The imports of private merchandise totalled Rs.20.65 lakhs in August, 1924, and showed an increase of Rs.67 lakhs as compared with the preceding month. The value of the exports of Indian produce and manufactures fell from Rs.24,19 laks in July, 1924, to Rs.24,02 lakhs in August, 1924, and re-exports also decreased to Rs.1.13 lakhs.

Measured by the statistics of merchandise and treasure, the visible balance of trade was against India to the extent of Rs. 83 lakhs in August, 1924, as compared with a favourable balance of Rs. 3,20 lakhs in July, 1924, and of Rs. 3,80 lakhs a year ago. During the five months ending August, 1924, the visible balance of trade in merchandise and treasure was Rs. 18,57 lakhs in favour of India, as compared with Rs. 29,80 lakhs in the corresponding period of the preceding year. The balance of the remittances of funds in August, 1924, was minus Rs. 1,76 lakhs.

As compared with August, 1923, the imports of food, drink and tobacco increased by Rs. 56 lakhs to Rs. 3,48 lakhs, raw materials by Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 1,81 lakhs, and manufactured articles by Rs. 3,11 lakhs to Rs. 15,08 lakhs. Under food, drink and tobacco, sugar 16 D.S. and above including beet sugar showed an increase of 22,000 tons in quantity and Rs. 45 lakhs in value. Imports of provisions and oilman's stores also accounted for an increase of Rs. 15 lakhs in value. Under raw materials, raw cotton showed an increase of Rs. 13 lakhs, and kerosene oil of Rs. 11 lakhs, while

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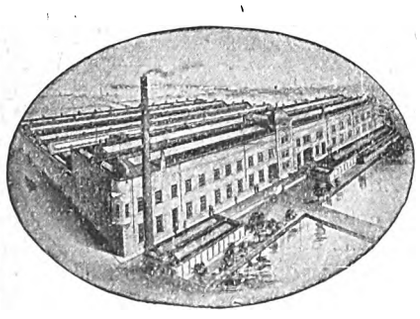
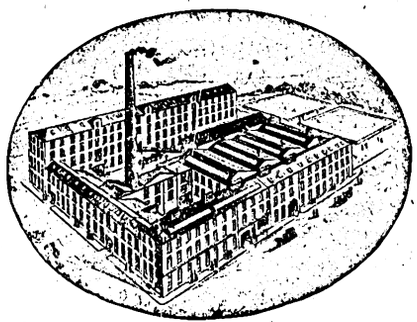
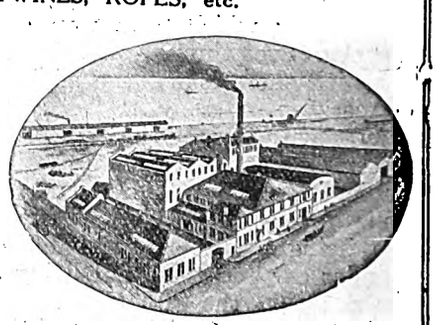

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there were decreases of Rs. 12 and Rs. 9 lakhs under precious stones and pearls unset, and raw silk, respectively. Of manufactured articles, the imports of cotton yarn and piecegoods showed a considerable increase. Grey goods rose in quantity from 35 million yards to 69 million yards, and in value by Rs. 1,10 lakhs to Rs. 2,27 lakhs. White goods rose by 8 million yards in quantity and by Rs. 36 lakhs in value, and coloured goods by 6 million yards in quantity, and Rs. 33 lakhs in value. Increases were also noticeable under cotton yarn (+Rs. 42 lakhs), iron and steel (+Rs. 20 lakhs), other metals (+Rs. 22 lakhs) and woollen piecegoods (+Rs. 19 lakhs), while railway plant and rolling stock showed a decrease of Rs. 26 lakhs.

As regards exports of Indian merchandise, food, drink, and tobacco, as compared with August, 1923, increased by Rs. 93 lakhs to Rs. 9,10 lakhs, owing mainly to an increase in the exports of foodgrains (+Rs. 85 lakhs). Raw materials and produce exported decreased by Rs. 35 lakhs to Rs. 7,52 lakhs. Under this group oilseeds decreased by Rs. 49 lakhs, lac by Rs. 41 lakhs, raw jute by Rs. 27 lakhs, and raw hides and skins by Rs. 20 lakhs, set off by an increase of Rs. 85 lakhs under raw cotton. Of the total shipment of 20,000 tons of raw cotton, Japan took 11,400 tons, or 57 per cent.; Italy 2,700 tons, or 13 per cent.; China 1,300 tons: Belgium 1,200 tons; the United Kingdom 900 tons; and France 400 tons. Exports of raw jute decreased in quantity from 25,300 tons to 15,200 tons, and in value from Rs. 83 to Rs. 56 lakhs. Manufactured goods rose by Rs. 83 lakhs to Rs. 7,16 lakhs. The shipments of gunny bags in August, 1924, increased in number from 40 millions to 41 millions, and in value by Rs. 38 lakhs to Rs. 2,22 lakhs. The yardage of gunny cloth exported also rose from 126 millions, valued at Rs. 2,12 lakhs to 135 millions, valued at Rs. 2,52 lakhs.

ARTS OF PALESTINE.

A sale of the arts of Palestine is proceeding at the Palestine Pavilion, Wembley, and will continue until November 1. The sale includes many beautiful and interesting objects representing the ancient crafts of the Holy Land, which have been collected with a view to interesting the British public in these industries and helping the native workers, who are in a distressed condition. Fabrics, laces, jewellery, and pottery are among many beautiful and decorative objects offered at reduced prices.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended September 13 amounted to Rs. 9,93,984, making the total from April 1 Rs. 2,25,23,395.

The London offices of the Sudan Government Railways and Steamers have been removed from 5, Northumberland Avenue, to Wellington House, Buckingham Gate, S.W.1.

The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due November 1 on Egyptian Unified Bonds. The necessary lists can be procured on application at the dividend pay office, 5-6, Lombard Street, E.C.

The whole of the goods exhibited in the Cyprus Pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition have been reduced very considerably in price, and will be sold retail for the remainder of the exhibition. Consequently, bargains are offered in carpets, curtains, silks, woollens, fur skins, rugs, pottery, wines, and other articles.

The London Chamber of Commerce, which has been actively engaged in pressing for the speeding-up—and cheapening—of postal communications, has sent a letter to the Cunard Steamship Company congratulating them upon their action in again making Plymouth a port of call before Cherbourg. One result of that step has been to reduce, by twelve hours, the time taken in delivering the mails carried by the company's ships—an important consideration to traders having business relations with the United States and Canada

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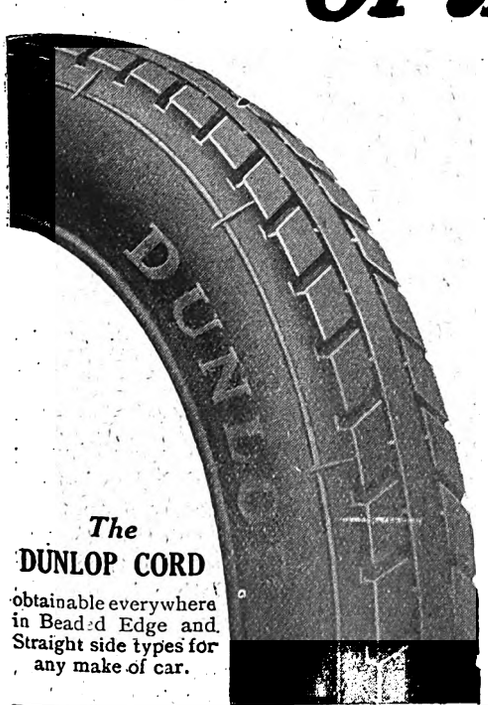

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Steady.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended October 7, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has been very steady; the net changes on the week are :—Sakellaridis : $0.50 up for November, $0.60 up for January, $0.75 up for March. Ashmouni : $0.65 down for October, $0.42 down for December, $0.45 down for February. The demand from abroad has been moderate, and prices have again been more maintained by speculative purchases than by genuine trade demand. Sakel November has been largely dealt in, and has shown quite exceptional strength, its premium over October Ashmouni touching $11.40 at Tuesday's close; we consider this premium rather big, and one that might restrict the use of Sakel. We are inclined to expect that this difference will narrow as the season advances and the weight of Sakel arrivals becomes more felt; as we have said in our recent reports, the Sakel crop has this year been rather successful, and, despite the reduction in acreage, the production will be bigger than anticipated. The Government has not been in the market during the week. We consider to-day's prices, both for Sakel and Ashmouni, rather too high in comparison with other markets, and we expect that the heavy arrivals of the next two months will tend to reduce the present differences. The week's receipts amount to 235,717 krs., against exports 98,703 krs.; the stock stands at 890,774 krs.

Spot :—Minet-el-Bassal has only been open four days this week, but a good business has been done, and sales amount to about 19,700 bales, of which we estimate 9,000 bales Sakel, 5,200 bales Uppers, 4,600 bales Zagora, 700 bales Pilion, 200 bales White, and a few bales of Brown.

Sakellaridis.—There has been business in all grades from Fully Fair upwards, but the bulk has been done in Fully Good Fair and better. Prices of spot against contracts are without much change, but are inclined to ease. High prices have been paid for Fully Good and Extra.

Uppers.—The demand has been mainly for the medium and better qualities. Prices of spot against contracts are without much change, except Good Fair, which is a little easier.

Lower Egypt Zagora has attracted rather more attention this week, owing to the relatively cheap premiums at which it can be bought as compared with Uppers.

Pilion.—A fair business has been done chiefly in the better grades, which are rather dearer, in comparison with contracts, than last week.

White.—A moderate business has been done in Fully Good Fair and better. Prices of spot against contracts are inclined to ease.

Crop 1924.—Our agricultural expert has now completed his tour in Upper and Lower Egypt, and we give as this year's preliminary crop estimate 7¼ to 7½ million kantars. We base this estimate on an acreage of about 1,950,000 feddans, which we consider to be nearer the mark than that of 1,787,843 given by the Government. We estimate the production of the various varieties as follows: Sakel about 3¼ million kantars, Ashmouni Zagora about 3½ million, Pilion about ¼ million, White about ¼ million, and other varieties about ⅛ million kantars.

The report of the Alexandria General Produce Association for September reads :—

Lower Egypt.—The temperature during the month of September has been, on the whole, high and rather favourable to the crop. There have been some morning mists and heavy dews, which have caused some damage. The attacks of pink worm have increased the damage reported in our last report. We estimate the percentage of bolls which have been damaged by worm at 25 to 30 per cent. The first picking has commenced fifteen days earlier than last year; the results are superior in quantity, not only because in many cases the bolls of the second picking have been picked simultaneously with the first, but also because the varieties Zagora and Pilion (which have a larger yield) have been planted in larger proportions. Advices regarding the second picking are unfavourable, and lead us to foresee much smaller results than last year. The ginning yield is inferior to that of last season.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—It now appears that the great heat experienced this summer, followed by much damp, has caused a certain amount of damage, and consequently the results of the first picking are, on the whole, less than those of last year, and prospects for the second picking are rather bad; it is thought that the increase in the acreage planted with cotton compensates the deficit in quantity. The ginning yield is irregular, and generally inferior to that of last year.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

A Dull Week.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended October 18 states :—

This market has experienced a dull week. Raw cotton has exhibited a falling tendency, and buyers seem to be holding off until they think the bottom has been reached. A further inducement to them to do so is to be found in the expectation that at an early date spinners will resume full time, and that, in consequence, yarn and cloth will then be available on cheaper terms.

Yarn.—Operations have been restricted to urgent requirements, and the turnover has not been so large as in recent weeks. Nevertheless, the re-

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stricted output of American counts has been fairly well absorbed, and spinners maintain their firmer attitude, quotations being reduced only to the extent of the fall in raw cotton prices or even a little less. The high price of Egyptian cotton seems to be acting as a deterrent to operations in those counts, and business has been very quiet. Good order books, however, enable spinners to maintain quotations firmly. Exports of yarn last month amounted to 11,316,200 lbs., as compared with 11.851,900 lbs. in August and 11,987,180 lbs. in September last year.

Cloth.—Numerous offers have been received from abroad at prices which allow for the full drop in raw cotton, but these manufacturers are by no means prepared to entertain. India has taken moderate quantities, but very little has been done for China, whilst contracts for Egypt and the Near East have been fewer than recently. Shipments of cloth in September amounted to 359,971,300 sq. yds., as compared with 373,643,900 sq. yds. in August and 344,318,800 sq. yds. in September last year.

Raw Cotton.—The feeling in this market inclines towards still lower prices, and the tendency has been downward almost daily. The weather reports from America have been exceptionally good, and give rise in some quarters to hopes that the crop will even yet turn out much better than is to be expected, judging from the bureau reports. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling 13.53, Egyptian Fully Good Fair 24.85.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Inquiry on Small Scale.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 15:—

Egyptian Futures.—In spite of a substantial drop in the American markets, our contract has maintained a comparatively firm undertone throughout the week, the heavy discount at which we are running below Alexandria, scarciey of local offerings, and the heavy premium of spot cotton over contract values, effectively checking any declining tendency. The present position of our market is quite abnormal owing to the discrepancy in values ruling between here and Alexandria. The strength of the latter market is surprising, in view of the fact that the crop should now be marketing freely; no doubt heavy sales of early shipment cotton are now in process of being covered, and with these filled the weight of the crop must surely bring the markets into line again. A strike of carters in Alexandria during the past two days has had the effect of holding up supplies and delaying shipments; if prolonged, the dispute would be a serious matter for those dependent on "immediate" or prompt shipment cotton, but we are informed that a settlement is expected during the next day or so. A further widening out in the Egyptian and American straddle difference has taken place during the week, the November options in the respective markets now standing at 785 points, a wide margin and one at which, if maintained for any length of time, will probably drive a certain section of Egyptian users to other spinning qualities. Manchester reports continue to be satisfactory, with the bulk of the business for immediate or near deliveries; spinners still show little disposition to cover further than their bare commitments in actual at the present level. Taking a long view of the market, we consider prices on the high side, but. in view of the fact that Liverpool is the cheaper market, certainly recommend those who are prepared to work on the short side to put out their sales in the Alexandria Sakel contract.

Egyptian Spot.—The indication towards lower prices furnished by last week's Bureau Report has had the effect of encouraging spinners to hold out in the hope of seeing still lower rates. Consequently, although a fair inquiry has continued, the majority have contented themselves with merely keeping posted as to the trend of prices, and what business has taken place has been strictly of a hand-to-mouth character. In Sakellaridis, cotton about Strictly Fully Good Fair has been frequently asked for, but no cotton of this description has been forthcoming, the nearest supply apparently being on the s.s. "Hatasu," due here about the end of this week. A considerable proportion of this vessel's Sakel cargo has probably been sold afloat, and it is difficult to foresee from what quarter the present scarcity here can be relieved during the next few weeks. Good prices are being asked and obtained for this style of cotton, 425 to 450 on November (say 25d.) being a fair quotation to-day. This time last year, the same cotton was changing hands at approximately 18.75d.

Rather more business has been done in the better cotton at about 550 to 600 on. but the high prices asked are preventing this inquiry from broadening. During the next few weeks, when more cotton will be available, the basis should ease considerably, and it is for this, of course, that spinners are waiting anxiously. During the week, the difference between the official spot quotations and futures has narrowed considerably, and the general opinion is that there is plenty of margin still for a further movement in the same direction. In Uppers, a good inquiry has been witnessed, and with a plentiful supply now available, either on the spot or close at hand, the basis has again eased. The official quotation for Good Uppers is to-day quoted as 18.10d., but the cotton can actually be bought at a penny less. It is generally expected that prices for Upper Cotton will be reduced still further in the near future. In Alexandria itself, a considerable widening in the difference between Uppers and Sakel is confidently expected. Incidentally, Alexandria is, at the moment, the chief impediment in the way of lower prices, and exporters, in the face of a series of strong and steady markets, have not been inclined to give anything away.

Good Pilion has been sold this week at 20.75d. The inquiry for this cotton has not been maintained up to last week's level. Business in Sudan cotton has been on a moderate scale only. Brown and White have come in for a small share of attention. Low cottons are still pressed for sale with poor results. C.i.f. business showed some signs of activity at the commencement of the week, but during the last few days has rather tailed off. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 10th inst. were returned as 8,214 bales. A carters' strike has been reported in Alexandria, but as exporters are still offering for "immediate shipment" it is evident that no great importance is attached to it. Estimated sales, 1,100 bales Egyptians and 500 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel are 20 points lower for Extra Fine; 40 points lower for Fine to Good Fair, and 5 points lower for Fair. Uppers and Brown are reduced 95 points, with Fair exceptionally 70 points lower. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 25.05d.

Reuter's Bucharest correspondent, in a message dated October 14, states:—"An agreement is announced here between the London Stock Exchange and the Roumanian Government relating to the acceptance of certain Roumanian bonds now held by British subjects, which formerly had belonged to enemy subjects. As a result of the visit to London of M. Vintila Bratiano, the Minister of Finance, the Government has accepted the bonds which formed part of the British share. Consequently, the Stock Exchange has resumed the quotation of Roumanian loan bonds which had been suspended.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Further Rise in Coffee.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Coffee.—The market has remained very firm, and prices have advanced all along the line. Costa Rica is 5s. up at 170s., East Indian at 150s. is 8s. up, Kenya has advanced 6s. at 144s., while Santos at 112s. is 4s. up.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair request at unchanged prices. Tate's cubes are 42s. 9d., London granulated is 37s. 10½d., while Lyle's granulated is 38s. 1½d. Foreign descriptions have been dull. West Indian crystallised is 6d. down at 35s., White Java at 35s. is 1½d. lower, while Czech granulated is unchanged at 22s. 6d. Futures are firm: November, 20s. 3d.; December, 20s. 1½d.; March, 19s. 10½d.; May, 20s.

Maize.—A fair business has taken place. La Plata has been done at 49s. 3d. for November-December, which is well in advance of last week's rates.

Currants.—Business in this commodity has continued to be brisk. Vostizzas have been in special request, and supplies of this variety are somewhat restricted at the moment. Gulf and Amalias have also been moving off freely. Prices remain roughly at last week's levels.

Sultanas.—A very firm tone has been in evidence in the market, and prices have risen sharply. This is due to the continuance of the heavy demand for the continent, and to the shortage of supplies. Cretans have now been very largely absorbed, while it looks as if the supply of really fine Smyrna sultanas this season will be very small.

Figs.—A steady business has been done, and the excellence of the fruit has done much to stimulate the demand. Here also there is a distinct prospect of a fruit shortage, so high prices must be looked for.

Plums.—There has been a fair demand for this commodity.

Dates.—There is nothing of special interest to report. Good supplies will shortly be forthcoming, and no doubt business will then expand.

Oilcakes.—The market has been quite firm. Linseed cake is unchanged at 280s., cottonseed cake is the same at 180s., while coconut cake is unaltered at 240s.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been very firm, Indian being 9d. up at 24s. 10½d., while La Plata is 9d. up at 22s. 7½d. Rapeseed has been firm. Toria is 3d. up at 24s. 7½d., while real bold Ferozepore is 3d. up at 24s. 1½d. Cottonseed has been strong. Indian is 1½d. up at 12s., Egyptian black is 9d. up at 14s., while Sakellaridis is 6d. up at 14s.

Seed Oils.—Linseed oil has been firm, closing 1s. 6d. up at 46s. 9d. Rape oil has been firm, with crude 1s. up at 51s., and technical refined 2s. up at 55s. Cotton oil has been steady. Refined common edible is 1s. up at 51s. Egyptian crude is 6d. up at 45s., while deodorised is 1s. up at 53s.

The directors of the Midland Bank, Ltd., announce that they have elected Lord Kylsant, G.C.M.G., to a seat on their board.

For their Harworth Main Colliery Messrs. Barber, Walker have ordered from Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness, a complete and exactly duplicate set of winding engine mechanical parts. The main contractors are the Metropolitan Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd., and the winding engine is said to be the largest electrically driven winder in this country.

ABYSSINIAN CURRENCY SHORTAGE.

The following is taken from an article in the current issue of the *Journal* of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce on the Sudan's trade with Abyssinia:—

The greatest hindrance to trade with Abyssinia is the present scarcity of the Maria Theresa dollar. This coin is made in Vienna, and is current in Abyssinia in much the same way as the Mexican dollar in Eastern Asia. Its high proportion of silver, about 90 per cent., makes it of greater intrinsic value than ordinary silver token money, and this is, of course, a deterrent to stabilisation. It is more a commodity of facile use in barter than a medium of exchange. Before 1914 traders imported these coins direct from Austria, but manufacture and export were, of course, stopped on the outbreak of war. The factory has now been restarted, the terms, we understand, being that the buyer supplies the silver and pays 10 per cent. of its value to cover costs and profit. After the wild rise in the value of silver during the war, the Abyssinian Government started exporting dollars to Aden, and large quantities were also smuggled out by private traders. The Sudan Government also sold large quantities in England up to 1919, and from the normal rate of 12 dollars to the pound sterling pre-war a rise has taken place to the present quotation of 7¼. The price is not controlled by the Abyssinian Government, but by the Bank of Abyssinia and the richer Indian merchants of Addis Abeba, who sell according to demand at the best price obtainable, an obviously most unsatisfactory arrangement for trade of any description. Some dollars with the Menelik head are in circulation, but these, in spite of Royal Decrees to the contrary, are not generally accepted in the Western districts. The latest quotation for silver on the London market was 34½d. per ounce, a rise of about 10 per cent. in four months, and whether the cause may be attributed to restricted production alone or to speculation, the fact remains that fluctuations of this nature give cause of grave concern to those seriously interested in this trade.

At one time the Sudan Government kept an ample supply of dollars in the Government chest at Gallabat for issue to traders in exchange for Sudan currency, but the supply for some time past has been inadequate, and the consequence has been that the prices of merchandise have depended greatly on whether sufficient dollars were available or not. The Government, our correspondent suggests, should either keep a supply of at least 150,000 dollars in this chest at all times, or stop the supply altogether and let trade revert to the old methods of barter. This suggestion appears feasible so far as this frontier trade is concerned, as imports more closely approximate the value of exports than is the case at Gambeila. Another suggestion is the gradual adoption of Sudan currency in place of the dollar by making it generally known to the Abyssinian that he may exchange his Sudan currency at the Government chest for dollars whenever he desires to do so. The question is of great importance and worthy of special investigation.

The natural wealth of the country is very considerable, the soil in many districts being exceptionally fertile, but Abyssinia is a backward State, with a bad system of currency, primitive laws, and faulty methods of administration. The wages of an ordinary labourer in the interior average about

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15 dollars a year—that is, about 12 P.T. per month—and it is not surprising therefore that employment is being sought in the Sudan. There should be no difficulty in obtaining labour for cotton picking in the Kassala district once the working conditions there become more generally known and confidence grows, as it is now doing very rapidly.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Semi-Diesel Engines, etc.—The Director-General, State Domains Administration (Commercial Service), Savoy House, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of four semi-Diesel engines and four centrifugal pumps. November 1.

Paint.—The Main Roads and Bridges Department of the Egyptian Ministry of Communications invites tenders for the supply of 45 metric tons of paint for the Cairo bridges.—November 10.

Diesel Motor.—The Egyptian Government invite tenders for the supply of a Diesel or Semi-Diesel motor of 30 h.p.—November 12.

Looms, etc —The Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of (1) Looms and preparatory machines required for the Trades School at Mansûra. (2) Machines for rug factory at Assiout. November 15.

Leather.—The Egyptian Ministry of Education invites tenders for the supply of leather required for the model workshops and trades schools of the Ministry. November 15. (D.O.T.)

Soap. — The Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 110 tons of hard soap to Egyptian Army Supply Stores, Tura. December 2.

Railway Sleepers.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of wooden railway sleepers. December 16.

Turkey.

Galvanometers.—The Turkish Posts and Telegraphs Administration invite tenders for the supply of thirty galvanometers.—November 1.

Yugoslavia.

X-Ray Apparatus—A firm of dealers in scientific instruments and electro-medical apparatus in Novi Sad are desirous of receiving catalogues and prices of X-ray apparatus from British manufacturers. (D.O.T.)

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅝-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	257-260
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	300-310
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	23.36-23.38
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.6 3/32-1.6 5/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	93.50-93.60
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	785-795
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	340-350,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.6 3/32-1.6 5/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	830-845
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.49-4.49⅛
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	85 95-86.00
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	150½-151
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	103.00-.10
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	615-625
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	317-320,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	23.35-23.45

National Insurance Companies.

"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"

(ESTABLISHED IN 1895).

"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and General Re-insurance Company "BALKAN."

Capital: Leva 5,000,000 each.

Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000.

HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

A MOTOR-LAUNCH FOR EGYPT.

Light craft for rivers in African and Egyptian waters appear to be in continuous demand. The latest order has been received by the Steel Barrel Co., Ltd., Uxbridge, who are building a steel motor cabin launch for service in Egypt.

The launch should prove a very serviceable type of craft. The length on the waterline is 32 ft., the beam 7 ft., and the extreme draught 2 ft. 9 in. The hull is constructed entirely of galvanised steel with closely spaced angle frames. The launch has a large cockpit slightly forward of midships, where is arranged the power plant. Abaft this is a roomy cabin, and also a small passenger cockpit. Forward, under a teak deck, sleeping accommodation is provided for two natives. The propelling machinery consists of a two-cylinder Gardner semi-Diesel motor of 24 c.h.p. The engine is of the latest design, having the flywheel at the forward end and the reverse gear accommodated in the bedplate extension. The cylinders have a bore of 7 in., with 8 in. stroke.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. California for Bombay (Liverpool, October 24). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Somersetshire for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 8).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 5).

British India Line.—S.s. Margha for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 24); s.s. Dumana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 25).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Poona for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 30).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Trentino for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Galatz, and Braila (London, November 15).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Sycamore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 5). (The last steamer of the season to Galatz and Braila.) S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 22).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Margha for Bombay (London, October 24); s.s. Dumana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 25).

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

Passenger sailing dates:—

California, Oct. 25.	*Scindia, Jan. 16.
*Circassia, Nov. 18.	*Massilia, Jan. 30.
*Olympia, Nov. 28.	*Elysia, Feb 11.
*Castalia, Dec. 16.	*Circassia, Feb. 27.

* First class passengers only.

NEW T.S.S. CALIFORNIA, 17,000 tons,
carrying 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class passengers, sails from Liverpool Oct. 25; Marseilles Nov. 1.

ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,
16, GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.3.

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THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - - £390,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia:—
Chief Office, TEHERAN.
Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdah, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - £5,013,834

HEAD OFFICE:
Basildon House, Moorgate, LONDON.

GREECE.
Central Office:
ATHENS.
14 Branches.

EGYPT.
Central Office:
ALEXANDRIA.
8 Sub-Branches.

TURKEY.
CONSTANTINOPLE
(Galata, with Sub Branch at Stamboul).

Complete Banking Facilities for the Near East.

The Only British Bank in Greece.

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Please forward THE NEAR EAST weekly for months.

Remittance enclosed.

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To be obtained at all Bookstalls.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA

Incorporated and constituted in India under the Imperial Bank of India Act, 1920, for the purpose of taking over the undertakings and business of the Bank of Bengal, the Bank of Bombay and the Bank of Madras.

Local Head Offices:—
CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London:—
S. A. H. SITWELL, Esq.

Authorised Capital - - Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - - Rs. 5.62.50.000
Reserve - - - - - - Rs. 4.57.50.000

BANKERS in INDIA to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA.

Branches in all Principal Towns in India.
London Branch: 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.
BANKERS TO THE GOVERNMENT IN KENYA COLONY AND UGANDA.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... ... £4,000,000 | Paid-up Capital £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... ... £4,000,000 | Reserve Fund £2,750,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES.

Aden, Aden, Steamer Point, Amritsar, Bombay | Calcuttta, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Cochin (S. India) | Colombo, Delhi, Kandy, Karachi | Lahore, Madras, Mandalay, Newera Eliya | Rangoon, Tuticorin, Zanzibar | Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru (Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)) | Entebbe, Jinia, Kampala (Uganda)

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga.

The Bank purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.
The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.
The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.
The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application.

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Capital 24 millions Leva.
Reserves 1,705,000 Leva.

Branches:
Varna and Bourgas

Telegraphic Address:
"Bulcomit."

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COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE

(A Limited Liability Company Registered in Athens.)

CAPITAL PAID UP - Drs. 30,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 29,266,341.40

The assets include securities worth £1,000,000, which are valued at Drs. 25,000,000; that is, at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larrissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea, Zante, Plomari, Tripolitza.

Associated Bank in London:

The Commercial Bank of the Near East, Ltd., with branch at Constantinople.

AGENTS IN ALL PARTS OF GREECE, THE LEVANT AND ABROAD.

The Bank conducts every kind of Banking and Stock Exchange business, and extends special facilities to merchants and traders interested in business with Greece. It acts as Agent for many Foreign Banks. It is specially organised for Exchange transactions, the execution of mail and cable transfers throughout Greece, and for the collection of clean and documentary Drafts and Bills.

MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT.

The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

BANK of ATHENS

Head Office: ATHENS.
ESTABLISHED 1893

BRANCHES IN GREECE, TURKEY, EGYPT, CYPRUS, LONDON AND NEW YORK.

Telegraphic Address: BANCATHEN.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA & CHINA.

38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £3,900,000.

Court of Directors.

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COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
SIR ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
SIR WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, K.B.E.
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THE RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN NEWELL JORDAN, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., [K.C.B.
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Chief Manager—W. E. PRESTON.

Managers—J. S. BRUCE and G. MILLER.

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ALOR STAR (Malay States)	DELHI	MADRAS	SEREMBAN
AMRITSAR	HAIPHONG	MANILA	SHANGHAI
BANGKOK	HAMBURG	MEDAN	SINGAPORE
BATAVIA	HANKOW	NEW YORK	SOURABAYA
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	PEKING	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PENANG	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
CANTON	IPOH	PUKET	TIENTSIN
CAWNPORE	KARACHI	RANGOON	TOKYO
CEBU	KLANG	SAIGON	YOKOHAMA
COLOMBO	KOBE	SEMARANG (Java)	ZAMBOANGA (PhilippineIslands)
	KUALA LUMPUR		

Bankers.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.
WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED.
NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts and transact general business connected with the East, DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £340,000

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors:

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SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
J. H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
MEYER SASSOON, Esq.
SIR PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for 1 year and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application, and Current Accounts are opened by the Bank in London and at its Branches.

F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED

Head Office: LONDON.

(Affiliated with Barclays Bank, Ltd.).

EGYPT.—Alexandria, Cairo, Port-Said, Suez, Tantah, Zagazig, Mansourah, Assiut, Beni-Suef, Minieh.
SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nazareth. MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta, Gibraltar.

Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000 Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000
Reserve - - - - - - £720,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - - - - - £3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - £2,325,000

London Agency:

6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET, E.C.4.

Branches in all the Principal Towns in

EGYPT and the SUDAN.

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New York to
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PRINCE LINE, 56, Leadenhall St., London;
Gough & Crosthwaite, Ltd., 30, Princess St., Manchester;
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MENZALEH CANAL & NAVIGATION CO.,

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General Shipping, Landing, Clearing and Forwarding Agents, Export and Import, Passengers and Freight. Nile Boats Chartering and Shipping Brokers.

Towage and Lighterage Port Said. Inland Water Transport throughout Egypt. The Company possesses 2,000 tons cargo lighterage.

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Daily Stern-Wheeler Services on Lake Menzaleh for passengers and goods. Reduced rates on application for large consignments of merchandise.

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Through Bills of Lading, U.K. and Continent to any Railway Station in Egypt and Palestine.
Bankers: THE NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

For further information apply to the
Director and General Manager,
MENZALEH CANAL & NAVIGATION CO.,
P.O. Box 290, PORT SAID, EGYPT.
TELEPHONE—626

P. & O.

BRITISH INDIA and NEW ZEALAND SHIPPING COMPANIES'

MAIL, PASSENGER AND CARGO SERVICES.
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MEDITERRANEAN, EGYPT, INDIA, PERSIAN GULF, BURMA, CEYLON, STRAITS, CHINA, JAPAN, MAURITIUS, EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA, AUSTRALASIA.
PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL SAILINGS.
(Under Contract with His Majesty's Government.)

Steamer.	Tons.	London.	M'rse'ls.	Destination
NALDERA	16,000	—	Oct. 24	Bombay & Karachi
†KHIVA	9,000	Oct. 24	—	Straits, China, Japan
*MONGOLIA	16,000	Oct. 25	Oct. 31	Colombo & Australia
KAISAR-I-H'D	11,430	Oct. 31	Nov. 7	Bombay & Karachi
†NORE	7,000	Nov. 1	—	Colombo & Calcutta
*MACEDONIA	11,000	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Straits, China, Japan
CHINA	8,000	Nov. 14	Nov. 21	Bombay & Karachi
†NELLORE	7,000	Nov. 15	—	Colombo & Calcutta

* Taking passengers for Bombay, via Aden. † Calling at Malta.

BRITISH INDIA SAILINGS.
(Under Contract with the Govts. of India and Queensland.)

Steamer.	Tons.	M'bro.	London.	Destination.
MARGHA	8,258	—	Oct. 24	Bombay & Karachi
DUMANA	8,600	—	Oct. 25	Madras & Calcutta
§PERIM	7,648	—	Oct. 29	Queensland Ports
MATIANA	8,901	Oct. 22	Oct. 30	East African Ports
¶TALAMBA	8,500	—	Nov. 8	Madras and Calcutta
§†BOYNE	4,445	Nov. 1	Nov. 15	Bombay & Karachi
†MALDA	8,900	Nov. 8	Nov. 22	Madras & Calcutta
‖MULBERA	9,100	—	Nov. 27	East African Ports

Ships marked § will not take passengers. ¶ Calls Malta.
‖ From Marseilles Dec. 5.
† Leaving Antwerp one week after Middlesbrough date.

ADDRESS: For Passage, P. & O. HOUSE, 14, COCKSPUR STREET, LONDON, S.W.1; Freight or General Business: P. & O. or B.I. COMPANIES, 122, LEADENHALL STREET, E.C.3; B.I. Agents: GRAY, DAWES & CO., 122, LEADENHALL STREET, E.C.3.

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PASSENGER SERVICE FROM SOUTHAMPTON TO NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA via PANAMA CANAL.
Apply J. B. WESTRAY & CO., 138, Leadenhall Street, E.C.3; West-End Agency, P. & O. House (1st floor), 14, Cockspur St., S.W.1

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No. 703—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Egyptian Intentions.

For such as were waiting for Zaghloul Pasha's return to Egypt as a sign of how matters were to be governed or to be allowed to drift this winter, a certain disappointment was in store. It is possible, indeed, to put two interpretations upon the speeches of the Egyptian Premier. His tone was certainly militant, but one feels that his mental background was conciliatoriness, or at least caution. His actions have so far been confined to the strengthening of his personal influence in the reconstructed Cabinet. Prophets of trouble abound, admittedly, but it is preferable to hope that Zaghloul Pasha may this time be able to control the students, who, domestically speaking, are the masters of Egypt. Appreciation of the position will be easier when the results of the British elections become known in Egypt. The idea that more would be extractable with a Labour Government in power in Britain appears to be very widely held in Egypt.

Exchange of Populations.

In the month when the exchange of the populations as between Greece and Turkey ought to have been finally effected a storm has arisen in a tea-cup, has simmered over, and finally, we hope, has cooled down again. Once more the Turks appear to have grown impatient with the ambiguities contained in the Treaty of Lausanne, and in so forcibly taking the matter into their hands as to arrest hundreds of Greeks in Constantinople, they have again shown that contempt for international sentiment the outward regard for which is the first essential of the civilised State. Doubtless there is something to be said for the Turkish point of view, but while understanding the urgent desire of Angora to expel from Constantinople all Greeks established there after October 18 1918, one must deprecate the method in which attempt has been made to realise the desire. There are, happily, now signs that the matter will be settled without further truculent and sensational talk: it is profoundly to be hoped, indeed, that the last, from the international side, of this exchange of populations question has been heard.

The Frontiers of Iraq.

The Commission of the League of Nations which is to decide the question of the *status quo* in regard to the Northern frontier of Iraq met at Brussels on Monday, but as yet nothing is known of their findings. Meanwhile, there is slight trouble elsewhere on the frontier of Iraq. Spasmodic fighting appears to be still raging round Suleimaniyeh, which is yet bothered by the very offensive designs of the notorious Sheikh Mahmoud. Without venturing in any way to criticise the actions of the British command in Iraq, we may point out that clemency towards this particular Sheikh has been repaid with the most woeful ingratitude. It is difficult enough now to capture him among the fastnesses of the mountains of Kurdistan, and there can be little question that it is at Turkish instigation that he is now keeping engaged a very large proportion of Iraq's available land forces. With his like on the borders of Iraq, an increase in the Army becomes essential—a fact which Iraq's Premier is doing his best to demonstrate. But conscription in Iraq is still an unrealised dream. In the meantime, the reported intention of ex-King Hussein to reside at Basra cannot make more remote the possibility of a clash between the border tribes of Iraq and Nejd.

The Emirate of Mecca.

News from the Hejaz is still scanty and uncertain. The situation is quiet, but it would be premature to call it stabilised. Various explanations of the present crisis have been put into the mouth of Ibn Saoud, but so far there appears little more motive-force for this Wahhabi victory than intense hatred of ex-King Hussein. Of Ibn Saoud's actions there are few to record. The most notable is his reported appointment of Shereef Ali S (? H.) aidar Pasha of Constantinople to the Emirate of Mecca. If this appointment is confirmed—there have been statements made in the Press that it merely means that there actually exists an individual named Ali Saidir, and that he has been made not Emir, but Commander-in-Chief at Mecca—it will certainly be proof of the astuteness of Ibn Saoud. It will be remembered that ever since the appointment, in 1908, of Hussein to Mecca Ali Haidar was possessed of a sense of injustice, and

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that when, in 1915, the Turks appointed him to Mecca as against the then rebellious Hussein, he regarded the appointment as the fulfilment of his rightful due. Consequent upon the defeat of the Turks, his claims to the Emirate of Mecca naturally became overlooked, and his seclusion at Constantinople has been uninterrupted except for the brief interval in 1920 and 1921, during which his pretensions to the throne of Iraq were vainly advanced. There is, however, no question of the eminence of his position among Moslems—although chiefly, of course, among Shiahs—and if the event finds him, at the instance of the Wahhabis, at Mecca, a great step will, we imagine, have been taken in the interests of peace in the troubled peninsula. This country, at any rate, for whose culture he has profound admiration, would look with no unkindly eye upon his appointment.

Britain and the Yemen.

Those who are insisting that the present is an unrivalled time for smoothing out relations between Britain and Arabia have certainly a good deal of reason. Not only with the Hejaz and the Nejd is there opportunity for reorientation of our policy, but also, as Colonel Harold Jacob pointed out forcibly and convincingly in his lecture to the Central Asian Society the other day (summarised elsewhere in this issue), there is urgent necessity for revising our conceptions of the ruler of the Yemen. It has been commonly but erroneously assumed that the Imam Yehia has been Turkophil and opposed to British influence, and that in confirming the Idrisi in possession of Hodeida this country had been curbing the potentialities of an unfriendly chieftain. This, however, is far from being the case. The Imam badly wants a Treaty with Great Britain, and there are, so far as we know, no impossible demands on his part similar to those which inhibited the signing of such an Anglo-Hejazi Treaty as ex-King Hussein would have desired. Is it too much to hope that, with the establishment of a moderately stable Government at home, the Colonial Office may review the whole relationship between Britain and Arabia, or, rather, between Britain and the various rulers in Arabia?

INDIA.

Action in Bengal.

The news of numerous arrests in connection with the Anarchist conspiracy in Bengal has not come as a surprise in this country, where the prevalent feeling has perhaps been anxiety lest action might be delayed until the authorities' hands were forced by another of the atrocious crimes for which Calcutta has become notorious. The gravity of the local situation is sufficiently evidenced by the fact that the Viceroy, who has not yet allowed himself to be hustled, has found it necessary to issue an Ordinance, in the exercise of his emergency powers, to strengthen the hands of the provincial authorities. The need for such support arises, as we pointed out recently in these columns, from the diffidence of the decent people in Bengal, who abhor violence, but will give no help towards its prevention. The burden thus falls wholly on the officials, and particularly on the police. Its weight may be measured to some extent by the provision of the Ordinance regarding the admissibility in evidence of statements made by deceased persons; in plain words, it becomes bad policy to murder an officer or a witness, because the defence gains nothing and loses the chance of cross-examination—a gruesome provision, but one which experience proves to be necessary in Bengal.

The Moslem Standpoint.

In passing from crime to politics, the most important development to record is the obvious hardening of Moslem opposition to the demand for a new Constitution, which has been pressed so strongly of late by Hindus, liberals and extremists alike. We take it that the community has now definitely liquidated the commitments in the Khilafat agitation, into which it was rushed by an active and malignant clique, and under which it was for a time forced to support the extremists in internal politics. The men who are now putting the Moslem case forward, whether before the Reforms Committee or in the Press and on the platform, are taking a clear line of their own. They do not, of course, repudiate the ultimate ideal of complete self-government, but they are insisting that the country is not ready for anything of the kind, or even of any further step in that direction, and they are concentrating on the wise policy of working the existing Constitution, and retaining its safeguards until the time comes if it ever does, when they shall be no longer necessary. In substance, that is the attitude of this country, as well as of the lower classes among the Hindus, and the conditions appear to be becoming favourable for a new *bloc*, offering for the first time a fair chance to the much-abused dyarchy.

Unity or Harmony?

The detailed reports of the "Unity" Conference at Delhi which have now reached this country, make rather depressing reading. An improvement in the relations between Hindus and Moslems is so urgently needed that no means of attaining it should be neglected, but the Conference was altogether the wrong sort of thing. It was managed throughout by politicians of the type which so recently propagated the gospel of hate. The effects of that preaching are now felt to be inconvenient in practice, and so the politicians have striven to bury them under a heap of formulas of the kind which already disfigure so much of the Indian landscape. Among the protagonists at the Conference it is hard to find the names of any real religious leaders. There were pandits and maulvis in plenty, but not the men to whom Indians instinctively turn for counsel or guidance in religious matters, and if there were any qualified representatives of Benares and Hardwar, they succeeded in escaping the notice of the reporters. The truth is that "unity" is a mere political device—a thing unattainable in present conditions, but considered to be worth talking about for temporary ends. What India needs is harmony, not unity, and when she sets to work in earnest to secure it she will put her ardent politicians into the back seats instead of on the platform.

The Rehabilitation of Caste.

An interesting example of the workings of one school of Hindu thought has reached us in the prospectus of the "Universal Welfare Association," recently founded in the State of Travancore. Stated

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shortly, the object of the Association is to rehabilitate and perpetuate the caste system, and thereby attain the ideal of a co-operative polity, consisting of groups organised on strict hereditary lines, and exchanging services for mutual benefit, the competition of individuals being altogether eliminated. The promoters desire to begin in the villages, build up gradually an Indian nation, and eventually organise the whole world on these lines. It is an ambitious programme, and we doubt whether it will prove attractive to the people forming the lower groups, but at least it possesses the merit, somewhat rare in India, of beginning with the foundations, and not with the roof. As a practical question, we wish the promoters would supply rather more definite information as to how their plans will square with the great religious systems which rest on the theory of individual equality and freedom. There are not many Moslems in Travancore, but they are important in other parts of India, while, seeing that about one-quarter of the population of the State consists of Christians, the question will have to be faced almost from the outset.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Red Plot.

Engrossed as the political world is with a General Election in which the Russian Treaty, the Campbell case, and the Communists are leading issues, we had not expected the sensational disclosures of a Red Plot from the Foreign Office precisely at this moment. Although the authenticity of the document has been denied by the Russians, it seems extremely difficult to accept that denial; the Foreign Office is very careful, and would take every precaution before making itself ridiculous in the eyes of the whole world.

The general feeling is that this disclosure finally kills the Russian Treaty. The Bolshevists have once again shown themselves impossible people to do a deal with, since one cannot trust a word they say. Publication of the offending document and of the Foreign Office protest has made Mr. MacDonald's own position very difficult; as head of the Foreign Office he has assured us that there is nothing in these stories of Red propaganda and Communist influence, and now he gives himself the lie. Even *The Times*, which is generally very cautious in its prophecies, admits that he can hardly retain his position at the head of the Government. The immediate effect will be to damage his own party at the elections on Wednesday; the ultimate effect on British policy will be profound and lasting. It is many years since we have had so sensational a week-end, and most politicians have been so taken by surprise that they have preferred to remain silent until further details have been published.

A Week of Speeches.

The election fever has caught the country badly, and there is more excitement than at any contest since 1910, when the People's Budget and the House of Lords veto were the issues. Meetings are well attended, and people are anxious to hear the rival candidates, and in most cases to give them a fair hearing. But there have been a good many unhappy exceptions, in London and Glasgow particularly, where interruptions have been so continuous that the disorder seems clearly to have been organised.

The interruptions are mostly directed against Conservative and Liberal meetings, which gives colour to the suggestion that the Labour Party has encouraged this kind of hooliganism. This suspicion has been frankly expressed by Sir Alfred Mond and others who have suffered at their meetings, and their irritation is natural; but personally I doubt whether the Labour Party is any more responsible for the trouble than the Liberal Party was for a similar outburst in 1910, when Conservative meetings were broken up by the "Land Song."

The fact is that a small band of dissentients who intend to break up a meeting can usually do so against the wishes of the majority of respectable citizens who want to hear an argument, even if they are opposed to the speaker's politics. The dissentients are generally young fellows of a destructive turn of mind, who are out for trouble or even for a lark, and rather enjoy making a nuisance of themselves. They may or may not be Communists or terrorists, as some sorely-tried politicians have stated; if they are, the Communist Party will not get very far. Politics, after all, is a constructive art as well as a game that can only be played (in England, at least) according to certain well-understood rules, and these people are merely demonstrating their unfitness for the vote.

The Tendency of Parties.

There is no need to say much about the speeches, which will all be forgotten by this time next week. Mr. Asquith has maintained his dignity and his mastery of style and argument, even in the rather rough conditions at Paisley. Mr. Baldwin has distinctly improved in method, and the country is beginning to respect him. Mr. Snowden and Mr. Thomas have both kept their tempers and put forward arguments which are consistent and well constructed. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, on the other hand, has become very shrill, and has been alternately vindictive and cajoling. He is obviously feeling the strain, and has more than once been very unhappy in his epithets. He has certainly not increased his reputation in his recent motor tours.

How far all these speeches make any difference to the voting is a very doubtful problem. I am rather sceptical whether politicians, like parsons, succeed in doing more than preach to their own converted. However that may be, cool onlookers are agreed that the swing of public opinion at the moment seems to be in favour of the Conservatives, and the prophets are disputing whether Mr. Baldwin will just get, or just fail to get, an independent majority. Predictions of this kind, of course, may look ridiculous a week hence; I merely give them for what they are worth, as the forecast of trained observers, who are not carried away by any personal interest in the contest.

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Men of this kind discount entirely the professions of optimism which come from each of the parties. They argue that the Liberal vote is bound to diminish, that the Conservative vote will show a fairly large increase in most parts of the country, and that the Labour vote may show a slight, probably a very slight, increase. It is thought that it will increase less in the North, where it polled practically full strength a year ago, than in the South, where Labour is putting up more candidates.

Against this, however, has to be set the fact that the Nonconformist vote, once Liberal and recently favourable to Labour, is said to be increasingly doubtful of the soundness of the Labour policy. Nonconformity, of course, is by no means Socialist; indeed, the ordinary Nonconformist is rather aggressively individualist, and proud of the fact. It is true, however, that Nonconformity is a decaying force in the great cities, but in the smaller towns and country villages it still counts, and its social influence survives its intellectual death.

The Anglican Church is naturally taking no part in the elections, but a good many of the younger clergy are rather favourable to Labour—at least, on its more idealist side. The growing strength of the Anglo-Catholics is probably inimical to Liberalism—the Tractarian hatred of Liberalism and all its works is historic—but the Church as a whole is not concerned with politics. It has its own troubles in the revision of the Prayer Book, and the quarrels of Socialists and anti-Socialists do not at the moment concern it.

Wembley.

The future of Wembley is still uncertain. New Zealand has refused to continue its exhibition next year, and, therefore, Australia has agreed to go on. Canada still remains undecided, but South Africa has returned a negative answer; the Crown Colonies will probably await the final decision of the Dominions.

Business men, I fancy, are rather favourable to the idea of a second season. At first they were frankly dubious whether the Exhibition would be of any use to them, but a long and well-documented article by Mr. Salmon, an authority on Empire affairs, in *United Empire*, shows that it has resulted in a large amount of new business being done. There is no reason to suppose that the potentialities of Wembley have been exhausted in this respect, and a continuance in 1925 would probably enable the Exhibition to pay off its capital account entirely.

As to the hotel and boarding-house keepers in London, they, of course, pray day and night for its continuance. It has proved a veritable gold-mine to them; the shopkeepers, I gather, are rather less enthusiastic. The only people, however, who are quite definitely opposed to a continuance of the Exhibition are the seaside landladies; the influx of country cousins into London has been disastrous from their point of view, and the wet summer has, of course, made things still worse.

Tertium Quid.

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NEW SECRETARY OF S.P.G.

The Archbishop of Canterbury presided recently at Church House, Westminster, at a meeting of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, of which he is president, when the Ven. P. Stacy Waddy, Archdeacon of the Church of England in Palestine, was appointed Secretary of the Society.

The Standing Committee had recommended the members to appoint Mr. Waddy, and the Archbishop, in moving a resolution to that effect, said Mr. Waddy was formerly headmaster at Parramatta, and when war broke out he came over as chaplain to the Australian troops and saw service in France, Egypt, and Palestine. He was a man of marked ability, and he asked the meeting to endorse the recommendation. This it did unanimously.

It was announced that the Standing Committee hoped to welcome the advent of Mr. Waddy at their meeting on November 6, and that he would take over the office of Secretary on January 1.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

During his recent visit to Palestine Dr. Weizmann opened the Goldhizer branch of the Jerusalem University Library.

A banquet was given by the Egyptian Senate and the Chamber of Deputies in honour of Zaghloul Pasha on October 24.

Owing to the illness of M. Michalakopoulos, the Prime Minister, M. Raktivan, the President of the Greek Constituent Assembly, on October 24 moved the adjournment for a fortnight.

Major Forbes-Leith, driving a Wolseley motor-car, has reached Quetta from Leeds. He has covered 8,527 miles, of which 2,850 miles were across open country without roads and 1,550 miles were over desert. In all there were 96 running days.

According to the *Tanin*, Hussein Husni Bey, the Chief of Police, who became Acting Vali of Constantinople on September 10 after the dismissal of Rashid Bey, has resigned his position as Chief of Police, and the Valiship has been offered to Reshad Bey.

An American squadron, under the command of Admiral Philip Andrews, arrived at Spalato on October 25 on an official visit. The freedom of the city was conferred on the Admiral, and an enthusiastic reception was given to the Americans generally by patriotic Yugoslav organisations.

It is stated, says the *Morning Post* Rome correspondent, that before leaving Rome for Tirana after his recent visit, Monsignor Fan Noli, Premier of Albania, exchanged notes with the Soviet Ambassador, declaring reciprocally the *de jure* recognition of the Albanian and Soviet Governments.

Karkalacheff has been sentenced to death for having murdered M. Petko Petkoff, an Agrarian Deputy, who had held office under M. Stamboulisky. M. Petkoff, whose father, then Prime Minister of Bulgaria, had been assassinated in 1907, was shot in the streets of Sofia on June 14.

According to the *Morning Post* a mission from the Patriarch of Jerusalem left Belgrade on October 25 for Trieste on the way to London. They propose to seek an audience of King George for the purpose of explaining to him personally the hard case of Christians of the Orthodox Church in Palestine on the growing influence of Jews in that country.

According to *The Times* Baghdad correspondent, the Iraqi Cabinet, after considering the message from his father sent down to it by King Faisal, has decided that no objection can be raised if King Hussein wishes to take up his residence at Basra, provided that he comes as a private person and makes no attempt to influence political affairs. It is expected that King Hussein will accept these conditions.

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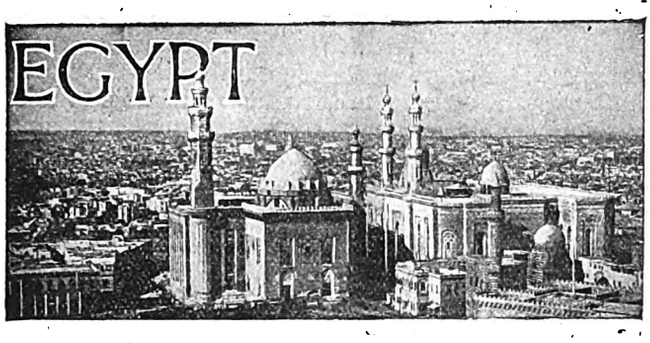
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, October 16.

The Position of Zaghloul Pasha.

Nothing else is being thought of at present but the return of Zaghloul Pasha, who is due in Alexandria on Monday next. Considerable anxiety is everywhere expressed—each element has its own personal reason for being anxious—with regard to his retention of office, but the general opinion is that the pressure of his party, who are, in truth, the most interested in his remaining in power, will prove too great for him to resist.

Back to Cairo.

By the end of the month the seat of Government will have been transferred back to Cairo. Already most of the foreign Legations have left Alexandria. The Residency will follow suit as soon as Lord Allenby arrives—he is due on October 27. Tentative arrangements have been made for the closing of the summer offices at Bulkeley on the 23rd, and the King is seriously considering a return to Cairo at the end of the month instead of towards the middle of November. Parliament reassembles on the third Saturday in November—*i.e.*, the 15th, and a session full of interest and activity is anticipated. Certainly the immediate future is pregnant with possibilities, for there are many important questions affecting the *status quo* which will have to be dealt with almost immediately. Whether any serious crisis will result will depend on Zaghloul Pasha's mood and the control he is able to exercise over the more hot-headed and aggressively inclined element in his party.

The State Railways.

One of the largest schemes proposed of late years by any Government Department has been submitted by the State Railways to the Ministry of Finance, and is now being very carefully considered. The scheme is intended to restore the State Railways to the condition of efficiency which they enjoyed up to and during the War. For more than five years now no renewal work has been carried out, and the condition of the service has deteriorated very considerably. The scheme will involve an outlay of over three million pounds during the next three years, and entails the acceptance by the Government of a scale of annual renewals so as to keep up the efficiency of the service and meet the growing needs of the country in future years.

The Hejaz and Iraq.

Events in the Hejaz are arousing a fair amount of interest here. No sympathy is felt for King Hussein or any members of the House of Hashem, but the occupation of the Hejaz and the Holy Places by the Wahhabis is regarded with some anxiety from the point of view of its effect on the pilgrimage. Interest as regards Iraq is not so keen. No brief is held here for the Turks, and the only reason that sympathy is felt towards them in the Mosul question is that they are resisting Great Britain.

***Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.**

THE SUDAN.

Khartoum, October 7.

Court-Martial Sentences.

During the last decade of September a special Army Order was published in which were promulgated the sentences passed on seven ranker Cadets of the Military School, who participated in a demonstration of a political nature contrary to the regulations of the Army in which they serve. Five were sentenced to five years' imprisonment each, and two to two years' imprisonment each with twenty lashes, this latter sentence being later commuted to two years' imprisonment only by Sir Lee Stack, Sirdar of the Egyptian Army.

It should be remembered that the Cadets under instruction at the Military School, Khartoum, are selected from two distinct sources, from the rank and file of serving soldiers, and what might be termed "gentlemen Cadets," or those selected from civilian posts who would eventually qualify as officers of the Egyptian Army. These "gentlemen Cadets" during the period of training, although under military discipline, are actually civilians, and the six individuals now under arrest for demonstrating are awaiting trial by a civilian court.

Following the promulgation of this special order, all the accused were transferred from the gunboat on which they had been confined to the Central Prison, Khartoum North. The transfer was affected by motor-lorry, and during the run of perhaps one mile the Cadets maintained a continuous cry of "Long live Zaghloul Pasha," "Long live King Fuad, King of Egypt and the Sudan."

Political Situation.

The political situation at the end of September may be summed up as satisfactory. With the exception of a little trouble at Malakal as detailed later, no activities on the part of anti-Government agitators were visible.

The promulgation of the Military School Court

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Martial sentences, contrary to general belief, was accepted without comment. At the time it was difficult to say whether or not the inactivity was according to plan, and the agitators were waiting for the result of the MacDonald-Zaghloul conversations (and a cue) before once again settling down to intensive propaganda activity. The result of these conversations has now been broadcasted throughout the three towns, and still there does not appear to be any forward movement on the part of any section or society of pro-Egyptian enthusiasts. This cannot but influence the general belief that no plan of inactivity has been arranged—the only reasons for the present lack of initiative are the fear of Government action and the fact that the majority of the more adventurous spirits have been placed inside the gates of the Central Prison. The civil court trial of these individuals has yet to take place. It is also worthy of note that since the arrest of the Egyptian Army clerk who was believed to be the chief writer and distributor of anti-British proclamations and seditious circulars Khartoum and Omdurman have, for the first time for many months, been free from this obnoxious mode of propaganda.

Attempted Demonstrations at Malakal.

According to an official *communiqué* issued on October 1 to the local Press representatives, two unsuccessful attempts were made at Malakal, the Provincial Headquarters of the Upper Nile Province, situated some 500 miles south of Khartoum on the White Nile. The first attempt was made on September 22, when a soldier of the 12th Sudanese Battalion stationed at Malakal endeavoured to incite his comrades to demonstrate in favour of Egypt and against the present régime. Except for the fact that he certainly created a little mild excitement before being arrested, his efforts were unsuccessful. On the morning of the 25th, another soldier, aided by four battalion clerks, attempted to hold a demonstration within the lines, but before any harm could be done they were all arrested and court-martialled without delay, each receiving a sentence of eighteen months' imprisonment. Although with these arrests the situation was reported satisfactory, the authorities at Khartoum thought it advisable to take precautions in safeguarding public property, and with this in view a company of British troops embarked on a river steamer for Malakal on the evening of the 25th. Reports subsequently received from that station state that the situation remains normal and entirely satisfactory.

These two attempts at demonstrations among certain disaffected elements were the first to occur in the Southern areas of this vast Sudan, and their distinct failure, coupled with the unprecedented arrival of British troops, must have an excellent moral effect on the negroid peoples living at, and in the vicinity of Malakal, who were perforce acquainted with the disloyal behaviour of the soldiers and of those anti-Government activities of pro-Egyptian enthusiasts. It is understood that the Southern Post boat which arrived at Khartoum on the 18th inst. brought with it a number of individuals whose sympathies towards the convicted demonstrators were most marked, and whose continued presence in such a station was considered undesirable as constituting the possible nucleus of a local society for furthering the designs of the agitators.

An Egyptian Night

NIGHT has fallen on Cairo. The streets of the Mousky are crowded—look closely, for the scene carries with it the glamour of the Arabian nights. Above the tric-trac of the dominoes in the cafes will be heard the sound of cymbals where the houris lead the dance—weird Salome dances which hold the senses spellbound. Across the desert, where the Sphinx and the Pyramids keep their eternal watch, silence and the miracle of stars enthral with mystery and imagination.

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EGYPT—THE ETERNAL WONDERLAND

YUGOSLAVIA.

Zagreb, October 21.

The Internal Situation.

The great struggle over the internal Constitution of Yugoslavia has been in full swing, and even after the extreme tension of the last two days no settlement has been arrived at. It is highly probable that the country will have to wait some time for a definite solution. The fact is that the point at issue in the present crisis is not merely the solution of a Government crisis, but that the vital question of the future Constitution and development of Yugoslavia is closely bound up with the Government problem; hence the difficulties with which the decision is beset.

Whether Yugoslavia is to be ruled in accordance with centralist or with autonomist principles; whether the Croats are to be met half way and their demands conceded, or whether all resistance on their part is to be crushed by the "strong hand"; whether pure parliamentarism is to prevail, or to be respected only when and in so far as it may suit the purposes of certain circles in Belgrade—these are the main questions involved; but with these main issues there are linked numerous side issues, such as the question of the Republic, the unity or triplicity of the Yugoslav nation—an awkward phrase for an awkward problem, viz., whether the nation is to be regarded as one single, reasonably homogeneous nation, or as one compound of three separate, though closely kindred, nations—and, finally, the campaign against corruption.

The Party Struggle.

The struggle between the parties is determined by the conflict between Democrats and Radicals, both of them centred in Belgrade; for Belgrade still wields the decision in Yugoslav politics, and for a long time to come Zagreb's attempts to step into her shoes will be in vain.

Before the War the Radicals had a bare majority

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in the Skupshtina, but after the War their position improved very considerably. They succeeded in spreading the opinion among the Serbs that the credit for victory in the War was due mainly to the Radical Party, and as the party could in this way represent itself as being of all parties the most essentially Serbian, it gained ground increasingly among the Serbs, and after the general election of 1923 became the leading Serbian party, well justified in claiming to be the representative of the Serbian people.

The development of the Democratic Party was widely different. It did not come into being until after the War, by the union of all Serbian Opposition parties with the Croatian and Slovene Liberals, and, above all, with the Serbo-Croat Coalition, which had been the leading party in Croatia before the War. At its birth the Democrat Party, at that time still distinguished by the predicate *Yugoslav*, was the strongest party in the country, as was also evident from the great number of its deputies in the first — non-elected — national representative body, the Constituent Assembly. But the Democrat Party proved itself unable to maintain its position. On the one hand, it was too heterogeneous; on the other hand, it made a mistake over its fundamental idea. The founders of the Democrat Party believed that they could win to national leadership by a programme of national unity, of immediate and energetic realisation of the Yugoslav idea, which in 1918 undoubtedly commanded a great majority of adherents in the country. Had the Yugoslav Administration been a model, this programme might also have been practical. But in actual circumstances this far-reaching scheme was doomed. Local patriotism and tribal consciousness awoke, and reaction grew in proportion to pressure from Belgrade. Croat and Slovene particularism refused to merge in a new Yugoslavdom, more especially as the Serbs would have nothing to say to it. The result was that in Croatia increase of strength went to the party which agitated the most strongly against Belgrade, and that in Slovenia the Autonomists, under Dr. Koroshets, gained almost every mandate. In short, the consequences of the Democrat point of view proved disastrous to the party. In Serbia it was ousted by the Radicals, in Croatia by M. Raditch's adherents, and in Slovenia by the Clericals.

Then the Democrats realised that they would be lost if they adhered to their original idea, and so it was quietly dropped. The predicate *Yugoslav* was eliminated in Serbia, and a *rapprochement* with the Croats set on foot. At the Zagreb Conference of 1922 the Democrat leaders declared in favour of a Yugoslav Union (*Zajednica*).

At that time M. Davidovitch might easily have possessed himself of the leadership of Yugoslavia; but he hesitated at the opportune moment, and the Radicals took the chance he missed. On the strength of the *rapprochement* between the Democrats and the Revisionists—as, indeed, the Croats were—the Radicals broke up the Coalition with the Democrats. The result was the all-Radical Election Government. From the general election in March, 1923, the Radical Party emerged greatly strengthened, but without having obtained an absolute majority. It was compelled, therefore, to seek allies, and in due course secured them. Already under M. Stoyan Protitch, the view was widely held among the Radicals that their party was a purely Serbian one, and ought to ally itself to the other particularist parties in the country. True to this principle, which had repeatedly been put into practice before, the Radicals concluded the so-called Marcus Protocol with MM. Raditch Koroshets, and Spaho. By this means the Radicals succeeded in keeping the Raditch deputies away from the Skupshtina, and so could rule securely.

But the Radicals' failure to fulfil their obligations evoked the struggle to bring about the fall of the Radical Government. After great trouble, the opposition was successful in persuading M. Raditch to allow his deputies to enter the Skupshtina, and the downfall of the Pashitch Government was rendered inevitable.

M. Raditch, however, blundered repeatedly, and this made it possible for M. Pashitch, by means of the secession of the Pribitchevitch group from the Democrat Club, to seize the reins of power once more and establish the Pashitch-Pribitchevitch Government. But the latter was short-lived, and a new Government crisis followed hard upon the passing of the State Budget.

Defeat of M. Pashitch.

This crisis was acute and nerve-racking, and ended most surprisingly in a total defeat for M. Pashitch. The astounding thing happened. A frankly and definitely anti-Pasbitch Government came into office in Yugoslavia, and the leading part in it fell to the Democrats, although they mustered only thirty-three deputies. Such were the consequences of the new orientation of the party.

Owing to the conflict between Radicals and Democrats, only that Government might hope to command a majority in the Skupshtina which could come to a working agreement with a non-Serbian party. As the Radicals were in favour of the "strong hand" policy, which was strongly deprecated by all non-Serbian parties, it was out of the question—especially after the experience in connection with the Marcus Protocol—that any non-Serbian party should wish to conclude an alliance with them. On the other hand, the non-Serbian parties had come to realise that an alliance with a Serbian party was absolutely necessary to them in order to compass the defeat of the Pashitch Government and obtain a majority in the Skupshtina.

Opposition to the Radicals was indeed the strongest motive in forming the Opposition *bloc*. At first the *bloc* gave but little promise of success, owing to the divergencies prevailing among the parties in it. But gradually its position improved, unity within its ranks increasing in face of Radical attacks. When finally M. Raditch declared in favour of the Opposition *bloc*, it was certain that it

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had a great majority at its command, and was, therefore, bound to come into office, all the more so as a fresh general election could only make the position worse. Beyond doubt only M. Raditch and the Radicals—i.e., the extremist parties—stood to profit by an election, and this would make an agreement with the Croats—and this is the cardinal demand of the Yugoslav policy—more difficult after an election than before. For these reasons the King was limited to a decision which would preclude a general election, and in remaining true to this standpoint in despite of everything he rendered a signal service to the cause of democracy. Incidentally, there was also this important fact to be considered: that any other solution would have been contrary to the principles of Parliamentary Government. The Opposition *bloc* had the majority in Parliament, and the composition of that majority was of quite secondary importance.

The Davidovitch Administration.

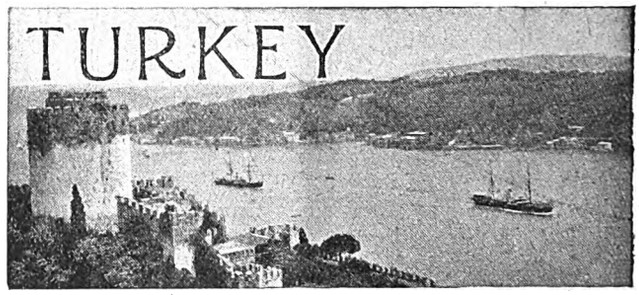
The Davidovitch Government took its task vigorously in hand, and successfully, too, as was soon apparent, especially in foreign politics. Similarly in internal politics, the new course made itself felt, and was warmly welcomed by many, especially over the campaign against corruption. It is perfectly obvious that a campaign against this evil is futile unless it is directed against those in high places. This the new Government was duly prepared to do, and its deputies lodged indictments against several former Radical Ministers. It now became clear that the Radical Party as a whole must suffer if corruption were brought home to its leaders, and so the Radicals began to assail the Government in every possible way. At first they confined themselves to attacking the alliance with M. Raditch, whose demagogic methods remain unchanged. When these assaults failed, there followed intrigues in Court circles and among the Generals of the Army, and the Minister for War was persuaded to hand in his resignation for political reasons because of Raditch's anti-dynastic propaganda.

What finally decided the next turn of events was that Pashitch suddenly declared himself for a compromise with the Croats. In this way it was made possible for Pashitch's friends at court to raise the question why the strongest of the Serbian parties should be excluded from the Government, seeing that it, too, was in favour of an agreement. Hereby the King was compelled to render possible the formation of a Concentration Government which would include the Radicals, and this again led to the resignation of the Davidovitch Cabinet.

Deadlock.

The next step was a conference of the leaders of all important parties in Parliament, the King himself presiding. At this conference the Radicals submitted the following conditions:—(1) The Prime Minister must be a Radical. (2) The Pribitchevitch party must not be excluded. (3) The Radical Club to enter the Government integrally, with all its 107 deputies. Ministerial appointments to be allotted to the various party clubs in proportion to their numerical strength. (4) M. Raditch must renounce his republicanism and his pacifist propaganda in the Army. He must come to Belgrade in person, and his party may come into the Government after giving guarantees for a new orientation in the sense of this condition.

Regarding the first point, the decision was unanimously left to the King. The second was dropped by the Radicals. But no agreement was reached over points (3) and (4), although the King himself put it that a politician could not be expected to change his views overnight. Then followed numerous and interminable conferences and discussions, which have so far yielded no definite result. The crux of the issue lies here:—The Democrats are committed to insisting upon the unconditional entry of the Raditch Party into the Government, because otherwise it might return to the old Croatian policy of boycott. The Radicals might see their way to accepting this point of view if the Democrats on their part would give way over their second main demand and admit all Radical Deputies, even those who stand accused of corrupt practices. But this the Democrats cannot concede, as it would compromise their whole campaign against corruption. Negotiations have reached a deadlock. With much trouble Parliament was constituted without recourse to unconstitutional procedure, and so one may say that a settlement of sorts has been arrived at. But as the new Cabinet has not yet been appointed, Parliament cannot meet, and the country is still waiting impatiently for the decision. What this decision will be it is at the moment not possible to say; yet those may be right who maintain that in no case can there be a return of the Pashitch-Pribitchevitch Government.



Constantinople, October 20.

The Exchange of Populations.

Considerable progress has been made by the Turkish executive authorities during the past two days in settling the controversy as to the meaning of the term "established" as applied to Greeks in the Exchange of Populations Convention. The divergence between the points of view of the Greek and Turkish delegates on the Mixed Commission has threatened to rend the commission in twain, but on Saturday last the local police took command of the situation and commenced rounding up all the Greeks they could find, beginning with the servant girls, and transferring them to concentration camps in preparation for imminent departure. The *razzia* was continued on Sunday throughout the streets of Pera, where the inhabitants were taking their Sunday promenade, and columns of supposedly exchangeable Greeks of all grades of society were to be seen wending their way in mournful procession to a concentra-

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tion camp somewhere in the wilds of Stamboul, under the escort of police and gendarmerie. It has thus been brought home to us what the exchange of populations really means. The shopkeeper has been dragged away in his apron from his shop; the young man disappears in the course of his Sunday afternoon walk; the maidservant goes to the market to do the morning's shopping and nothing more is heard of her. According to the latest news, the Commission is making the best of a bad job by acquiescing in this vigorous course of action, and stipulating only that members of the Commission shall go to the concentration camp and separate the wheat from the chaff—in other words, the exchangeables from the unexchangeables. Meanwhile, all are suffering acute discomfort, and their friends and relatives much anxiety. Wherever the fault may lie, it all seems so hopelessly unnecessary.

The Position of the Government.

The opening of the Grand National Assembly has sprung no surprises upon us as yet. The state of the Mosul conflict provided the Premier with the text for his disquisition on foreign affairs, and it is gratifying to see that his tone was studiously moderate, and that he considered that the immediate aim of the Government was the reference of this latest phase of the dispute to the League of Nations. His speech was an implied rebuke to the alarmists and chauvinists among his own countrymen, and the attitude of the House appears to show that the Government is still in control of a submissive majority, as far as foreign affairs are concerned. Various rumours are current concerning the possibilities when internal affairs come under the microscope. The Ministries of Reconstruction and Public Instruction are in bad odour, and a reshuffling of portfolios is likely, but notwithstanding recent attempts to direct the point of attack against the Cabinet as a whole and the Prime Minister in particular, it now seems fairly clear that the Opposition's bark is worse than its bite. One would not be in the least surprised to learn that the constitution of an official opposition had been sanctioned and "arranged" by the Government itself in order to infuse a little life into the dullness of the one-party system, which has been in vogue for so long.

Futility of Constitutionalism.

It is necessary to repeat to the point of nausea that this country has no conception whatever of constitutional Government as the West understands it. For all practical purposes the Government is an autocracy of two persons, Ismet and Mustapha Kemel Pashas, backed by a small and efficient army and police. There is no liberty of the individual either as a private citizen or as a politician, simply because the Executive does not understand the meaning of the term. It is, therefore, necessary to take with a grain of salt all the plans and promises of the Opposition, for they are to all intents and purposes powerless until they can gain sufficient control of the executive to take forcible measures; and there is very little sign of such violence at present. The personality and prestige of the President stand too high to be affected by puny constitutional agitation, and the Mosul crisis is most opportune for its effect in closing up the ranks at this trying moment for the Government, when a vociferous Parliament is just meeting again after a six months' recess.

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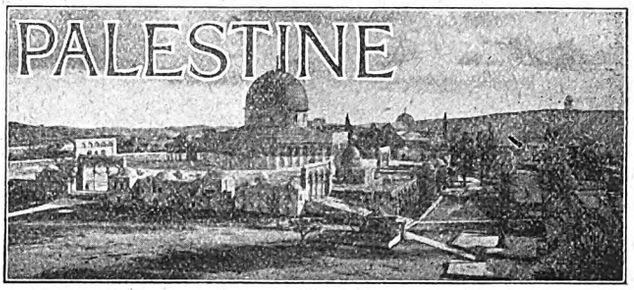

Jerusalem, October 18.

The High Commissioner's Interview.

This week the High Commissioner, for the first time since he has been in office, allowed himself to be interviewed by a body of Press correspondents. He divulged nothing of a startling nature, and was mainly at pains to correct a few wrong impressions. The following points are taken from the report of the interview which was passed for publication.

The "Citizenship Order-in-Council" (*i.e.*, the Nationality Law) might be published now at any time. The Order provided, among other things, that all residents, Jews and others, who have been in the country two years out of the previous three, and who intend to reside permanently in Palestine, may claim naturalisation.

The Jewish Community Law (permitting certain measures of autonomy among the Jewish inhabitants) would probably be delayed. A question of principle was involved—the recognition of a separate community within a Mandated area—which a new Government might wish to scrutinise before sanctioning.

While in London the High Commissioner discussed with the Chancellor of the Exchequer all outstanding points relating to the proposed Government loan, a Bill with regard to which Sir Herbert had hoped would be introduced this autumn; all such loans, if carrying a British Government guarantee, required an Act of Parliament. Here, too, Sir Herbert feared the General Election might upset all calculations. Borrowings in advance on this loan had been made by the Palestinian Government, which had to be repaid from the loan when obtained; the remainder, a not very considerable sum, being left for further necessary capital expenditures by the Palestine Government.

The position in Transjordan was unchanged. Press reports that the Administration intended to "annex" to Palestine the territory east of the Jordan being quite unfounded. The British Government has no intention of effecting any change in the status. This status was effected by promises made during the War, which have to be observed. The only change in this connection was that the British officials attached to the Transjordan Government were being borne on the cadre of the Palestine Government, it having been found inconvenient to have three or four officials not belonging to any regular service. Transjordan was part of the British mandatory area, and was being administered by the Emir Abdullah on condition that nothing was done to impair the fulfilment of obligations undertaken by the mandatory Power. An agreement covering those matters was to be entered into, but negotiations were not yet concluded. His Excellency said that he had had no information that the Emir Ali, on ascending the Hejaz throne, promised to sign the Anglo-Hejaz Treaty, or that the signing of this Treaty was a condition of his succeeding to the throne.

Government Appointments.

Asked as to administrative changes in the Palestine Government, the High Commissioner said: "Sir Gilbert Clayton, very much to my regret,

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desires to retire in a few months' time. He came to Palestine only for two years, and I am sorry to say that my efforts to persuade him to remain have not been successful. In the spring another appointment of Chief Secretary will have to be made.

"With regard to my own appointment, it was not definite at the outset whether it was for four or five years, but last spring the Government invited me to continue for the fifth year, which I consented to do; this period terminates at the end of June next. I have observed for several years past paragraphs in the Press, some to the effect that I was about to resign owing to disagreements with the Colonial Office on one question or another; some, again, to the contrary, that it was contemplated that my term of office would be extended. All these statements are without foundation; on no occasion was resignation in question, and there has never been any question of my serving an additional term."

Palestine and Geneva.

His visit to Geneva, Sir Herbert stated, was in response to a request from the Mandates Commission of the Council of the League of Nations that he attend the session where the administration of the British Mandate for Palestine would be considered. He said that this would be a routine meeting, at which the Commission would consider the report already submitted by the British Government with respect to Palestine some months ago, consisting mainly of references to the Annual Reports of the Palestine Administration, in answer to questions by the League of Nations.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, October 15.

Northern Frontier.

Until a few days ago, when a retirement of the Turkish forces was reported, matters were stationary on the northern frontier. Whether this presages a complete withdrawal or only a modification of the present line is at present unknown. There is reason for believing that the incursion of the Turks was not so much intentional as due to a misunderstanding, possibly to a clerical blunder. The Mosul vilayet possesses two distinct frontiers. The first is that claimed by the British during the early days of the peace negotiations with Turkey. While these protracted *pourparlers* were taking place the Assyrian refugees were being repatriated across the frontier into country which, while nominally under Turkish suzerainty, was actually "no man's land." As these tribes were Christian, and as they had been repatriated by the British authorities in Iraq, they continued to look towards the British for guidance, and thus there grew up a loose form of Iraqi-British control over the area in which they had settled. Consequently the British authorities in Iraq informed the home Government of the necessity of extending the original boundary to include the territory occupied by the repatriated Assyrians. It is this revised boundary which the Turks have violated, not the original one claimed by the British; this has been respected *in toto*. The occupation of this area by the Turks may thus have been made in perfect good faith, the fact that they respected the original frontier seeming to indicate that they were unaware of Iraq's extended claims. If the Turkish authorities were never informed of these, their vigorous denials of having violated any frontier may be explained.

The prompt action of the R.A.F. on the Mosul frontier has been very favourably commented upon in Iraq, and most of the vernacular papers have seized the opportunity to contrast British concern for the integrity of Iraq's frontiers with the lethargy shown by the general public, and the lack of martial ardour distinguishing the youth of this country. The *Istaqal*, however, states that it is impossible for any national feeling to be engendered in a country which is under the heel of the foreigner!

Lord Thomson's Message.

Lord Thomson, Secretary of State for Air, addressed the following message to the Air Vice-Marshal on the completion of his tour of inspection in Iraq:—"Before leaving Baghdad I desire to express my entire satisfaction with all the arrangements made throughout my visit, and to congratulate you personally on the very high standard of efficiency displayed by the officers under your command. Will you please inform your officers and other ranks that I greatly appreciate the good work they have done and are doing in Iraq. I have found the keenness and spirit shown by them in the performance of their duties up to the highest traditions of the fighting services, and my only regret is that force of circumstances has prevented me from making a longer stay and becoming personally acquainted with a larger number of units."

The Emir Ghazi.

The twelve-year-old Crown Prince of Iraq, who has at last been permitted by his grandfather to visit Baghdad, was met at Amman by a special deputation, including the Minister of Interior. After the long motor run across the desert he was met at Ramadi by the Prime Minister, and proceeded to Baghdad, where he was given a public reception, the High Commissioner and the members of the Cabinet being present. A remarkable feature was the number of Boy Scouts present, each troop with its own bugle band. The streets of Baghdad were more crowded than for many years past, and the people stood patiently for hours to catch a sight of their young prince, who, dressed simply in a grey Norfolk jacket and knickers, with headdress of *kafiyah* and *agal*, drove slowly down the main street of Baghdad to his father's residence.

The Ikhwan.

It has now been learned that a large army of Ikhwan, under the command of Faisal al Darwish, was recently encamped near Hafr, some four days' march from Basra. Scouts from the Wahhabi force were endeavouring, it is said, to locate Iraqi tribes with a view to raiding them. Probably the severe lesson inflicted on those who raided Transjordania caused this force to abandon its project, for no attacks have been reported up to date.

King Hussein.

The news of King Hussein's abdication was favourably received in Baghdad. It is generally recognised that his foolish behaviour has met with the reward which it deserved.

Ex-King George of Greece and Queen Elizabeth arrived at Bucharest a few days ago en route for Sinaia, where they propose to take up their residence.

Sir Maung Kin, K.C.I.E., a member of the Burma Executive Council and the first Burman knight, died at Rangoon on October 22 in his fifty-third year.

The following changes are announced in the Egyptian Cabinet:—Zaghloul Pasha takes over Foreign Affairs; Barakat Pasha, formerly Minister for Agriculture, becomes Minister for the Interior; Ahmad Mahar, previously an unknown deputy, becomes Minister of Education; and M. Mazlum will be Minister for Agriculture.

It is announced from New York that the State Department has despatched a sharp note of protest to the Persian Government on the failure to execute Seyed Hussein, who was convicted as the ringleader of the mob which murdered Major Imbrie. This action follows a personal report from the United States Minister, Mr. Kornfeld, who recently arrived from Persia.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

October 30, 1924 (New Style).
October 17, 1924 (Old Style).
Rabia 'II, 1, 1343 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Marheshvan 2, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Alfred Chatterton left London on October 25 in the s.s. Dumana for Madras.

Mme. Zekiai Bey, wife of the Turkish Minister, has recovered from her recent illness.

Colonel Ion Antonesco, the Roumanian Military Attaché, returned to London last week from Geneva.

Fathollah Khan Noury, First Secretary at the Persian Legation, left London last Thursday for Teheran.

Sir Francis Couchman left London last Friday in the British India Company's steamer Margha for Bombay.

Lady Barker is giving an "At Home" at Lowndes House, Lowndes Square, on Thursday, November 6.

M. Y. Yovanovitch, Yugoslav Consul-General, and Mme. Yovanovitch left London on October 23 for Belgrade.

M. Titulesco, Roumanian Minister in London, and Mme. Titulesco arrived last week in Monte Carlo from Geneva.

The Egyptian Minister, with Mme. Aziz Izzet Pasha and their son, returned to London by aeroplane last Saturday from Paris.

Mme. Blanche Vesnitch, widow of M. Milanko Vesnitch, formerly Serbian Prime Minister, left London on October 24 for Paris.

The Hon. Mrs. Herbert Pease and the Hon. Elizabeth Chaloner have left Liverpool in the City of Genoa for Port Sudan and Khartoum.

Mme. Grouitch, wife of M. Grouitch, who was Serbian Minister in London during the War, arrived in London last week from Belgrade.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Boxwell, accompanied by Mrs. Basil Hodgson, left Marseilles on October 22 by the steamship Cordillère, en route for Egypt.

Mr. D. T. Chadwick, Secretary to the Government of India in the Commerce Department, has left London to return to Delhi on expiry of his leave.

M. Michel Majaroff, Bulgarian Minister in London from 1912 to 1914, last Friday concluded his visit to England, and left London for Paris on his way to Sofia.

Dr. Georges V. Todorovitch, Counsellor at the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in London, has taken up his residence at the South Kensington Hotel.

Dr. Chairn Weizmann, President of the Zionist Organisation, will deliver an address on "Palestine as it is To-day" at the Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, W.C.2, next Monday (November 3) at 8.30 p.m.

M. Grégoire Michaesco, Commercial Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, left London on October 24 for Lausanne. He has gone away for the benefit of his health, and will be absent several weeks.

General Lord Rawlinson, Commander-in-Chief in India, presided at the Queen's Hall on October 22, when the first lantern lecture, open to the general public, on the Mount Everest Expedition, was given by Mr. N. E. Odell.

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee, member of the Government of India for Labour and Industries, has arranged to come to London to take up his new appointment as High Commissioner for India in January. Meanwhile Mr. Drake will continue to act as High Commissioner.

The engagement is announced between John Collmann Wharry, elder son of the late Henry Gordon Wharry, M.R.C.S., and of Mrs. Wharry, of 105, Cadogan Gardens, S.W., and Esmé, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Whittall, of Rosalind House, Moda, Constantinople.

The Maharaja of Bikanir, who was one of India's delegates at the League of Nations Assembly, left London on October 21 for Marseilles to join the P. and O. s.s. Naldera for India. Sir Malcolm Seton and Colonel Bannerman, representing the India Office, Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, Sir Stanley Reed, Sir Philip Grey-Egerton, Sir Muhammad Rafique, Mr. N. C. Sen, and Mr. M. Ezra were among those at Victoria Station to take leave of the Maharaja.

Among the passengers on the P. and O. Bombay express which left London last Thursday to connect with the steamship Naldera at Marseilles, were Major-General Sir Henry Freeland, General Sir Claud and Lady Jacob, Sir Stuart Montagu Samuel, Sir Lancelot and Lady Sanderson, Sir Thomas and Lady Smith, Major-General Sir Lee Stack, Major-General Sir William Thomson, and Sir Seymour Tritton. The Maharaja of Kapurthala, Major-General Sir H. C. and Lady Holman, Lady Ratan Tata, Sir Murray Trotter, and Sir Hugh and Lady Walmsley embarked in the Naldera at Marseilles.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1924.

THE POLITICAL DEADLOCK IN YUGO-SLAVIA.

Political crises are so much the order of the day in Yugoslavia that it is difficult to say whether they result from political incapacity or represent a clash of forces of which the real significance is still imperfectly understood. Only a few weeks ago it seemed as if definite progress were being made towards political stability. M. Davidovitch's Government commanded a majority in the Skupshtina, relations between Serbia and Croatia were manifestly improving, and there was some hope that M. Raditch's party would co-operate with the Ministry. The resignation of the Minister for War came upon this scene as a bolt from the blue. The reasons given for the step were dissatisfaction with the leniency of the Government's attitude towards Communism and a violent speech by M. Raditch, with whom M. Davidovitch was nominally in negotiation. The Government might possibly have weathered the shock, if King Alexander had not decided that the general situation was unsatisfactory and that the moment was opportune for placing the Government of the country on a broader basis. Although M. Davidovitch commanded a majority in the Skupshtina, his following included a very small proportion of the Serbian Deputies, and the fear was genuinely felt in some quarters that the future of Yugoslavia was in danger of being settled without reference to Serbian views. The Constitution provides that the Government of the day must enjoy the confidence of Parliament and of the King, and as soon as the Minister for War resigned the double stipulation ceased to be fulfilled. In handing in the resignation of the Cabinet, M. Davidovitch mentioned that he did not so at the express wish of the King and left it to be inferred that he was not himself convinced of the necessity of the step. That the country should have had to remain for more than two weeks without any Government at all must have caused King Alexander to wonder whether he was well advised in adopting the course that he took at that particular moment. Except in Radical circles, there was a general consensus of opinion that M. Davidovitch was doing as well as could be expected, and certainly well enough to justify his being given more time to prove himself. Communism could hardly be described as an immediate danger; as for M. Raditch's speeches, he was well enough known to make it evident that the only thing that mattered was what he did, not what he said.

Yugoslavia's troubles at the present time turn on the circumstance that the second largest political party gives unquestioning allegiance to a man who if he has ever had a practical idea in his head has carefully disguised the fact. M. Raditch's hold on the Croatian peasantry can easily be understood; that the educated and business classes of Croatia should also range themselves without the least misgiving under his banner is evidence either of a general indifference towards politics or of a deep-seated misgiving towards their Serbian fellow-countrymen. For the Serb the situation presents itself in very few words; the iron has entered once into his soul, he risked and endured all for love of country, and he cannot bring himself to stand tamely by while others proceed, as he conceives their policy to be, to make ducks and drakes of what is dearer to him than life. A dispassionate observer can point out several things that wholly escape the Yugoslavs themselves. In the first place, that M. Raditch is regarded as the saviour of Croatia in having rescued it from the over-zeal of the Serbian centralisation is no reason why he should permanently prevent the country from enjoying the benefits of decentralisation. The Croats stood to obtain from the Davidovitch Government, if not all that they desired, at least a generous instalment by way of a start, but the irresponsible tactics of M. Raditch, against which no Croat appears to raise his voice in challenge, prevent Croatia from obtaining any concessions, and are surely pushing her along a road that can end only in civil war for Yugoslavia. The Serbs, on the other hand, would lose nothing by taking their political courage in both hands. Neither the unification that they desire nor the strength that is to result from it can be procured by force, for an unwilling ally must necessarily be an element of weakness. They can afford to wait, in order to see just what Crotian aspirations entail, and only when they have actually overstepped the border line need they become alarmed for the safety of the commonwealth.

Students of psychology must find difficulty in explaining how a race of valiant fighters, as dogged and self-confident as the Serbs, can take such alarm at the bogeys of their own political imagination. When M. Raditch realises that he has only to mention the word Republic in the course of a speech in order to secure the resignation of a War Minister, he must feel tempted to ring the changes on his political vocabulary to discover what word or combination of words is required to bring down a whole Ministry. A sense of humour in Belgrade, if statesmanship is not available, would have produced a personal invitation to the Croatian leader to attend the meeting of party chiefs held under the auspices of the King, whereas his exclusion on that occasion has probably intensified the difficulty of finding a solution of the crisis. As soon as he had declared that he accepted the Monarchy there was nothing to prevent M. Raditch from being called to Belgrade for consultation, when, no doubt, it would have been found that the Republican tiger was much less fierce at close quarters than when left in his Croatian lair. This common-sense policy seems so obvious that the onlooker is left to wonder with the Yugoslav public what can be behind all the mystifications of the politicians. Is the parliamentary system really in danger, or is the so-called "White Hand" merely a gathering of patriotic but narrow-minded and unintelligent people unable to understand that there are more ways than one to most goals? In the meantime the country becomes more and more penalised by the political instability, and the onlooker is left wondering when the Yugoslav politician will forget his own petty personal interests and concentrate his whole attention on the interests of Yugoslavia.

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THE YEMEN.

Before the Central Asian Society on October 24 Colonel Harold Jacob, C.S.I., lectured on the Yemen, with Major-General Sir Edmund Barrow in the chair. In the course of his lecture Colonel Jacob said :—

After the exit of the Turks from Arabia each Arab "king" seeks to realise his own proper ideal. There can, however, be no close combination. That cuts clean against the Arab genius, is contrary to the spirit of the Koran, and could scarcely be effected even by the Prophet himself. Nor will these "kings" bow the knee to any Arab Khalif. The *spiritual* Khalifate ended with the fourth Khalif Ali, and thenceforward we see *temporal* rulers in various places. Even the Turks in Arabia, where they were strongly *in situ*, were too wise to attempt an amalgamation of the different rulers.

The lecturer was speaking mainly of the Yemen, where he had spent fifteen years, but he said that the other provinces could not be left undiscussed, since all were of the warp and woof of Arab hegemony.

Colonel Jacob placed the Yemen broadly in S.W. Arabia, and detailed what, before 1918, were the three political divisions there, viz. :—The Turkish Yemen, the British zone at Aden and vicinity, and, lastly, the Aden Protectorate. The genesis of the Protectorate started with Capt. Haines, of the old Indian Navy, the captor of Aden in January, 1839, and its ruler for fifteen years. The still-existing scheme is the payment to a great many Sultans and Sheikhs of varying stipends to ensure peace on the trade routes. The greater number of these pacts are the result, directly or indirectly, of Turkish encroachments since 1873. The lecturer believed that with the obliteration of the old Anglo-Turkish boundary line as drawn in 1902-04 it was irrational to divide Arab and Arab, and the gifts of the stipends and doles actually caused this division. The Arab loved not us, but our doles, which were made without our obtaining any adequate consideration. Reserving a buffer State between ourselves and the Imam, it would be a vast saving to our Exchequer if we "cut the painter" and let the majority of the territories lapse to the Yemen's Strong Man, who, like Mussolini of modern Italy, is an ardent Irredentist.

Colonel Jacob said the line of cleavage between the Sunni and Shiah sects was far less marked than was the case in India. In Arabia the sects would intermarry, pray in the same mosque, and even change from one persuasion to another, as suited the occasion.

Hussein of the Hejaz, the Idrisi Saiyid of Sabia in Asir (really an integral part of the Yemen), and Imam Yahya of Sanaa were all descended from Al Hasan, the eldest son of the Khalif Ali and his wife Fatima, though the Zeidi house originally emanated from Zeid, the near descendant of Al Hussein, Ali's second son. The Idrisi family had early migrated to Fez, and the present-day family gained temporal power in Sabia, and Abu Arish, and the coastal towns of Asir so late as 1907.

Colonel Jacob detailed the daily life of Imam Yahya in his capital of Sanaa, and portrayed his popularity, easy accessibility, his *bonhomie* and ready insight into every detail of the administration. He had invited Colonel Jacob and his friends, Major A. D. Spiers and Dr. J. K. Reid, to Sanaa, where, at the close of 1923, they were for three months his honoured guests, and living in one of his palaces. The Imam had for years been anxious to open his country to trade, and this was the express reason for the invitation he had given them. The stumbling-block to development was, however, the failure up to date to conclude a Treaty with the Imam, whose main wish was to secure to himself the rendition of his old-time port of Hodeida, "the key to Sanaa." Were a Treaty concluded, the whole of the Yemen and its sectaries would revert to the Imam Yahya, whose friendship it was important that we should secure. This result attained, there would follow the expansion of trade, which would be advantageous to both contracting parties.

The lecturer took pains to discount the oft-alleged friendship of the Imam to the Turkish régime. The reverse was the fact. The house of the Imam since 1873 had been markedly hostile to that régime, and the Yemen chronicles would amply attest the undying enmity of Imam Yahya and his forbears. Prior to the outbreak of the Italo-Turkish War of 1911-12, the Imam had been induced, as a true Moslem, to join the Turkish cause against the Infidel. He made a pact with them for ten years, and this term expired only in 1921. Even had the Imam, whose friendship to us was barely disguised, attempted to side with with us in 1914-18 the attempt could not have succeeded, for Sanaa was beset before and behind by a cordon of Turkish troops. The Imam's neutrality during the Great War was testified to by no less an authority than General Ali Said Pasha, the Circassian General who opposed us for over three years from his headquarters at Lahej. It would appear that history was repeating itself to-day, when we had allowed the Idrisi ruler of Sabia and Abu Arish to come south to Hodeida. The Yemen could not hold two rival potentates. In 1840 we had encouraged the Pasha to displace the Egyptians of Mohammed Ali Pasha's régime, and the Porte, in its weakness, and because of a heavy bribe paid to its Commissioner, Ashraf Bey, by the then Shereef of Abu Arish, had confirmed this turbulent swashbuckler in control of the lowland ports. The Shereef practised every sort of cruelty and exaction, even to cutting down the British flag at Mokha, and he was ultimately ousted from all his ports by the Porte. Now again, in 1919, we had suffered the present-day and upstart ruler of Abu Arish once more to poach in the Imam's preserves, and confusion was rampant, and trade in the meantime had gone by the board.

Coming to the vexed question of King Hussein's style of "King of the Arabs," the lecturer said that *all* the Arab rulers were "Kings of the Arabs," and the claim of one to this style caused no offence to any of the others; in fact, the Yemen's history provided a precedent for the assumption of this title.

It was deplorable that we had dropped King Hussein, our whilom friend, whatever his idiosyncrasies and puerilities from time to time. This change of front would nonplus our Arab friends. It was, of course, impracticable to have aided him against Ibn Saoud of Nejd, but a *via media* had been possible, and the inroad of the Wahabis into Mecca would give rise to a legitimate charge against us, the successors to the Turks as the arbiters of Arab national life, of being the cause of civil war in the sacred precincts of Mecca

When we look at our Arab programme in execution we must note its non-realisation. We must feel, as did the 18th century Mme. Geoffrin, who, speaking of her daughter, said, "When I look at her I feel like a hen that has hatched a duck's egg." We should espouse the Arab cause. All are Moslems; all seek our friendship; all craned their necks to welcome the Turkish dissolution, so that they might inaugurate their new life under our star. Let us recognise their individuality and help each "to cultivate his own garden."

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Finally, in citing our assets in the Yemen *in esse* and *in posse*, Colonel Jacob instanced the pre-eminently successful labours of that veteran leader Dr. John Cameron Young and his associates of the Keith-Falconer Medical Mission of Sheikh Othman, itself our prime political asset; then, too, our own strictly impartial rule in Aden—the admiration of the entire countryside– along with the invaluable assistance given us indirectly by "Tommy Atkins," who, by his sporting proclivities, had done so much to bring together white and brown. The officers and men of the 1st Yemen Infantry were an additional asset. Each British officer was a potential political officer, and the influence exerted to-day by this corps was all the more valuable to us since our unfortunate retreat in 1907 from the Aden Hinterland, since when we had lost that close personal touch with the folk which was so important an item in all dealings with Oriental peoples.

Among assets still to be was the commercialisation of the Aden Railway, a strategic line of the War that had since been extended to eight miles beyond Lahej, but which, because of its non-continuance, due to a lack of friendly intercourse with the Imam, was to-day a "white elephant," and did not pay construction. The advisability of introducing the Boy Scout movement was also touched upon, but a greater asset would be the creation—as in India—of a college for the training of the scions of the Sultans and the big Sheikhs, who were running to seed owing to neglect, early marriages, and their unchecked passion for the pernicious Kat-leaf. In short, our policy should be intensive rather than extensive, so that, in the words of the immortal Lao-Tzu, we might arrive at "Production with possession; action without self-assertion; development without domination."

Colonel Jacob subsequently showed several lantern slides of the Yemen, notably of Sanaa and of Mokha.

Commodore Crawford spoke of the Yemen's need of a port, of the undesirability of Britain's interference in the making of boundaries between the various Arab rulers, and, finally, of the "sirens" of Socotra.

Major Spiers emphasised the modesty of the lecturer, which forbade him to mention the extraordinary nature of the journey from Mokha to Sanaa, which, owing to Colonel Jacob's enormous prestige with the men of the Yemen, was made without personal danger. To the Yemen the British Empire was personified in Colonel Jacob.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

ENGLAND AND EGYPT.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—The eve of the General Election is certainly not a favourable moment to discuss the situation which has arisen owing to the breakdown of the Zaghloul conversations. But I cannot allow your article of October 15 to pass without comment, in that you practically accuse the Egyptian Prime Minister of a lack of honour in accepting our offer of independence, but failing to meet our wishes as regards the subjects reserved for discussion. Surely Zaghloul Pasha has repeatedly made it clear that he was in no way a party to that understanding, and in coming to London to hear Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's views he fully reserved his liberty of action in connection with these reserved subjects. Is it, too, not rather dangerous for us to make any mention of an *honourable understanding*, seeing that the British Government has repeatedly informed the world (through both Lord Cromer and Sir Eldon Gorst) that our occupation was temporary, and not to be prolonged? Looking at it from the Egyptian point of view, it is certainly reasonable to ask whether forty years is not a longish period for any occupation which is not permanent? Moreover, it can also be pleaded that this fear for our communications is not a danger of recent growth, and be asked why was Lord Salisbury so unmindful of it as to approve the Drummond Wolfe Convention of 1887, which only required the Sultan's signature at Constantinople, and our army would long ere this have quitted the shores of Egypt?

If the truth be told, our promises were intended for *Europe* rather than for the *Egyptians*, as in those early days there was a danger of raising the whole Near Eastern Question were it thought that our occupation was permanent. The War has changed all these considerations, but even now we are more mindful of Europe than Egypt, as is apparent from our fearing to transfer the Army to the Canal Zone on account of European susceptibilities, whilst entirely ignoring the Egyptians' very natural wishes for their capital to be free. But what a farce it makes of the League of Nations when a small nation's aspirations conflict in any way with a Great Power's interests! I have purposely made use of the word aspirations, as were we merely consulting Egyptian interests I should advise my friends in Egypt thus: "Accept our protection, and be thankful that you are, at all events, saved from the occupation of a more exacting Power, who might deprive you of the self-determination which you enjoy at our hands. Further, it is in your interests (not ours) that the Capitulations be abolished and that all foreigners dwelling in Egypt be subjected to one jurisdiction, a Mixed Tribunal though it be. Moreover, you must not for a single moment imagine that you can without our assistance free yourselves from this annoying and often very unjust supervision. Again, situated as you are, with the Suez Canal the highway to the East, you may be thankful that your country escaped as it did during the recent war. It was owing to our protection you have come out of the War with your Treasury overflowing and monetary system unimpaired. Can any other nation, great or small, boast of such immunity? It is true that we have in a measure not kept our word as regards evacuation, but remember that we came out of the War victors, and the Near Eastern Question has entirely changed since the promise was made. In short, the letter of our bond may have been broken, but seeing the enormous benefits you have enjoyed

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you must trust us still further. Co-operate with us is all we ask."

We cannot expect such advice, however good, to be palatable to the Egyptian Nationalists, but possibly it may be less resented than accusing them of a lack of honour in failing to respond to our advances under the changed conditions brought about by the War. Many of us, like the writer, may also feel that as long as our Fleet is unchallenged at either end of the Canal our line of communications cannot be cut. With the Fleet defeated, our occupation of Egypt will avail us nothing. With Egypt friendly, we, in fact, need never fear the Canal being blocked even. With the Egyptians against us, who can say what will happen? To recreate and confirm this friendship it is worth our while to meet their wishes, and find some spot other than Cairo for our Canal protecting Army.

But let us be honest, whatever we are. You cannot expect either large or small nations to believe in extracts from the Sermon on the Mount at Geneva if at the same time we give out in Cairo that what we took with the sword we keep by the sword.—I am, etc.,

British Club, Biarritz. COLES PASHA.

THE MOSUL QUESTION.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—As one who has been for two years in the Sanjak of Suleimaniyeh and has known the country and its inhabitants, I venture to suggest a solution of the Mosul question which may strike you as singular, but which, nevertheless, is reasonable on ethnographical and geographical grounds.

Forty miles east of Kirkuk begins the range of Kara-Dagh hills, which separates the Sanjak of Suleimaniyeh from the rest of Mosul Vilayet. It is inhabited purely and entirely by the Kurds, who gravitate neither towards the Turks nor towards the Arabs, and who would remain a perpetual thorn to Turkish or Arab Government, under whichever they might be placed. The Kurds of this country, which is called South Kurdistan, are so much inter-related with their kinsmen on the other side of the border in Persian Kurdistan, and that country is so congenial to them, that nearly all the nomadic tribes of this country emigrate to Persia for the summer. The language of these Kurds is more akin to Persian than any of the Kurds living in the northern part of Turkey, and the written language is, of course, pure Persian. If the Kurds of this country gravitate anywhere they gravitate towards Persia, from which they are separated by an entirely unnatural boundary.

In the South-West corner of Persia, which comprises the territory of the Sheikh of Mohammerah, and is known as Persian Arabistan, the conditions are exactly *vice versa*. Here is an Arab population entirely alien to Persia which naturally gravitates towards Mesopotamia. Cannot the League of Nations redraw the boundary of Mesopotamia so as to include Persian Arabistan in the territory of Mesopotamia, and South Kurdistan in the territory of Persia?

The rest of Mosul Vilayet should, of course, remain with the Arabs. There are more historical, traditional, strategical, and sentimental reasons in favour of the Arabs than the Turks can claim, and the only possible solution with the Turks is to exchange the small Turkish population (which, by the way, is not of pure Turkish descent, but is an hybrid breed, and can be classed neither as Turk, nor Kurd, nor Arab; a man of Kirkuk, Khamkin, and Kifri speaks all three languages, Kurdish, Turkish, Arabic, as his mother tongue) with the Arabs that still remain in Turkey.—I am, etc.,

Allahabad, October 4. SYED M. AHMED.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

TRANSJORDAN.

"TRANSJORDAN: SOME IMPRESSIONS." By Mrs. Steuart Erskine. (London: Ernest Benn, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

The authoritative book on Transjordan, containing the story of its conception, its formation, and its functioning, has yet to be written, although rumour has it that Mr. St. John Philby has some such compilation in keeping. Meanwhile, our knowledge of the place has from time to time to be refreshed with the comments, often pleasing, but necessarily superficial, of occasional travellers, who, from various motives, stray across the Jordan from Palestine.

Mrs. Steuart Erskine is the latest in the field, and it can at once be said, in agreement with Lord Raglan, who contributes an Introduction, that hers is a very readable book. She left Jerusalem in March of this year, went to Es Salt, and within a month had seen such places as Amman, Jerash, Petra (Wadi Musa), Kerak, Madeba, and Irbid. These parts she saw well, and with wise restraint. Realising the shortness of her time there, she concentrated on the observance of a few things, and, through this complete avoidance of any desire to "do" Transjordan, she has succeeded in investing with value everything she sets down.

These impressions are certainly alive, and made with a sense of fun. (A sense of humour she found a great asset in her journeyings in a Ford.) We like her story, for instance, of the mosque at Es Salt, which is near the hospital:—

It is so close to the hospital that a former Muadhdhin, who happened to be also a baker, once ended his call to prayer by leaning from his balcony and addressing these words to the matron, who was also out at an early hour:

"Sister, how many loaves do you want for the hospital to-day?"

It so happened that she was at Amman when King Hussein was there. Here is her portrait of this unfortunate monarch:—

King Hussein is small and spare, and age has set its mark upon him; but his eyes have a penetrating look, and he has an air of authority that becomes him. He reminded me, curiously enough, of an early impression of Queen Victoria; there was something quietly autocratic about him. As head of a family and a man who has long occupied a position of importance, his new dignities sit lightly on him.

When it was necessary to make arrangements for this addition to his retinue (he had offered the authoress the use of his royal train as far as Qatrani), the King resolved to consult the Emir, or rather to tell him what he wished done. He turned to one of his followers and said simply:

"Send for Abdulla!"

Again he reminded me of Queen Victoria, who never could realise that her children had grown up.

A shrewd enough comment, this. It need scarcely be added that the royal train did not convey Mrs. Erskine.

There are other passages that we should like to quote, but space forbids. Mrs. Erskine allows herself a little history, a little description, and, most charming of all, a little musing. Her book is illustrated with many photographs, mostly excellent; and it cannot be said that it does not possess a map.

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MOSLEM LEADER'S DEPARTURE.

Moslems of the Ahmadia Movement gathered at Waterloo Station last Friday afternoon to bid farewell to their head, the Khalifat-ul-Massih, whose father, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, founded the movement in 1890. The Khalifat-ul-Massih, with a delegation of about twenty, came from India two months ago on a mission to Europe, and particularly to attend the Conference on Living Religions of the Empire.

Before departing, his Holiness said: "There is, in my opinion, a great responsibility on the shoulders of the English people. They are the nucleus and bond of the British Empire, which I hope will be strengthened more and more and never be shaken. For myself and my community I can assure my fellow-subjects of the British Isles and other parts of the Empire that we will do our best to strengthen the movement of co-operation and unity in the British Empire, and with all the world."

THE RIF.

The Near and Middle East Association met, under the presidency of Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen, on October 15, to hear a lecture on the Rif, by Captain R. Gordon Canning. Those present included Count Raczynski (Polish Legation), Lady Downes, Muhammad Yunus Khan (Afghan Legation), Mr. Yusuf Ali, Sir John Foster Fraser, Mrs. Margaret Hasluck, Squadron Leader W. H. L. O'Neill, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Buxton, Mrs. Gordon Ponsonby, Captain H. Goad, Mrs. Roy Devereux, Sir Harry Lamb, Sir Henry and Lady Burt, Colonel St. John Cooke, Sir William Clark, Mr. W. E. D. Allen, Colonel and Mrs. Percy Bramley, Mr. H. Vaughan Morgan, Prebendary Gordon Ponsonby, Dr. E. H. Griffin, Mrs. Arthur Laye, Captain H. Mander, and the Lord Headley.

Captain Canning (whose paper was read by Miss Edith Place) said that the Rifis, as a whole, could be considered Berbers, and that they came probably from the Iberian stock. In religion, 90 per cent. of them belonged to the Malekite sect, a sect that, from the strict Muslim point of view, savoured of anthropomorphism. Physically they were a finely-built people.

Turning to the causes of the present war in the Rif, he sketched the reactions between Spain and Morocco from 1499. In the years 1900-1924 Spain's attitude towards the Rif was government by greed and fear. Since 1909 Spain has been engaged in a ruinous war on the Rif, employing between 50,000 and 150,000 men in attempting to subjugate her portion of Morocco. The description of the Rifis as "rebels" was absurd, and he claimed for Abdul Kerim that he was one of the most enlightened rulers of the day. Abdul Kerim's demands were: (1) Independence of his country; he would be willing to leave Ceuta and a small area to Spain, and also Melilla; (2) to develop the riches of his country in conjunction with European capital and science; and (3) not to interfere with the French zone, but to owe no allegiance to the Sultan while that ruler is under foreign domination. His immediate requisites were a medical mission and the presentation of his representative before the League of Nations.

Mr. Ameer Ali subsequently emphasised that the present war in Morocco is but a continuation of the struggle which commenced thirteen centuries ago, and pleaded for the British public to intervene, in the interests of humanitarianism, to end the futile slaughter now being indulged in.

Mr. J. A. Bevan, who had recently visited the Rif for geological purposes, said that when first he went, in 1921, life in the Rif was primitive, but during the next two years Abdul Kerim consolidated the tribes and reformed the government of the country. He proceeded to sketch the characteristics of the Rif, and concluded that Spain was not so much to blame for this war as were the signatories to the Treaty of Algeciras (1906), which gave France and Spain a free hand in the subjugation of Morocco.

LAND SURVEY OF PALESTINE.

The Government of Palestine has engaged the services of Sir Ernest Dowson, K.B.E., for a period of four months, to advise on the completion of the Land Survey of Palestine and on the best method of undertaking a land settlement. The agricultural progress of the country is greatly hampered by the existence of many disputed land titles, and undetermined boundaries, as well as by other defects in the land system inherited from the former régime, and it is of importance that such hindrances should be removed once for all, as they have been in Egypt, by a complete cadastral survey and land settlement.

Sir Ernest Dowson was lately Adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of Finance, and previously Inspector-General of the Survey Department of Egypt. The Palestine Government has been fortunate to secure the services of a recognised expert in the matters upon which he is to advise.

Sir Ernest Dowson will arrive in Palestine about the middle of November.

Bands of armed Communist and Agrarian refugees are reported to be trying to return to Bulgaria from Serbia, and there have been skirmishes with Bulgarian frontier guards along the Macedonian frontier.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Election.

By the time these Notes appear the election will be over and sufficient results will be known to indicate the outcome. While it is the fault of the Government alone that for a third year in succession trade should be handicapped by the disturbing influence of an election, the business community has some cause to be grateful to Mr. MacDonald for curtailing the campaign into less than three weeks and thus minimising the effect on commerce. One can only hope that the issue of the election will mean stable politics and no more elections for five years. The country has had quite enough of alarums and excursions in the last few years, and especially since the tenure of office of the present Administration, which, if it is entitled to the fullest praise for its part in what everyone hopes will be a lasting European settlement, is equally entitled to the most unmitigated criticism for its other activities, such as the negotiations with Russia and the removal of the McKenna Duties, the effect of which has been painfully evident in the enormous increase in the imports of a variety of commodities from abroad, with the natural consequence that work that could have been done in this country is no longer available for the improvement of the employment situation. I have known too many surprising elections to feel any certainty as to the issue on the present occasion. That the Conservatives will win seats is absolutely certain; the point in doubt is whether their gains will be sufficient to enable them to form an independent Administration. If that be the outcome, then we can view the immediate future without misgiving, for we shall have the stable Government which is so vitally essential for the development of commerce. If, however, there is a stalemate we shall be left in a state of uncertainty, and must be prepared to face another election within a few months.

Yugoslavia's Trade and the Exchange.

I have on many occasions emphasised the point that the one essential for trade development is that the exchanges should be stabilised. An illuminating example of the kind of thing that happens when they are not is forthcoming in the case of Yugoslavia. As I indicated recently, there has been evidence during this year of the development of a state of stabilisation as regards some, at any rate, of the Near Eastern exchanges. Recently, however, the Yugoslav dinar has improved somewhat, and the effect of this has been to bring trade between Great Britain and that country practically to a standstill for the time being; not, be it emphasised, because of the improvement of the exchange, but because in Yugoslavia itself the course of values has not followed the movement of the dinar. Freight rates have remained unchanged, with the result that it has not been worth while for traders to import goods. As from now onwards the Near Eastern exchanges, speaking broadly, may be expected in most cases gradually to improve, it is essential that the countries concerned should take steps to see that such hindrances to trade as exist are removed; otherwise, until the final stabilisation of the exchanges is accomplished, we shall be faced with the constant interruption of trade. It is not a difficult matter, and a solution should indeed be easy to find. All that is necessary is to see that railway freights and other charges affecting trade keep a more or less definite relation to the exchanges. If that is arranged, trade will be able to continue without interruption whether the exchanges are steady or are improving.

Roumania's Finances.

Nothing could better illustrate the great improvement in Roumania's economic position than the figures of the country's finances for the first nine months of the current year. For that period the revenue amounted to 18,992,000,000 lei, and, making allowance for the natural increase in receipts in the closing three months of the year, it is estimated that Roumania will have a Budget surplus of 3,600,000,000 lei. That would be a very remarkable result; and if it is realised the present year will very evidently be a landmark in the history of the country's recovery from the effects of the war. The trade figures, too, are eminently satisfactory. In 1923 Roumania's imports amounted to 703,274 tons, of the value of 19,713,000,000 lei, but her exports were 4,878,210 tons of the value of 24,373,000,000 lei. In the circumstances it is a matter for no little surprise that the Roumanian exchange should have remained for so long at a figure which obviously quite misrepresents the country's position. It was inevitable that the recovery, when it came, should be sharp, and until recently the leu has been improving. It now stands at 810, which compares very favourably with the figure at which it was a few months ago, but, in view of the vast improvement in the general economic situation in Roumania, it is not too much to expect that before long there will be a much more pronounced appreciation of the leu. British trade with Roumania, it may be added, has shown a very steady tendency to improve for some time past, but it is quite essential that British traders

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as a whole should pay much more attention to the requirements of the country, for Roumania promises to be in the future one of the most important markets in the Near East, and the people prefer British goods if they can get them.

Empire Cotton Growing.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found extracts from the annual report of the Council of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation. It is most encouraging, and shows very clearly the steady progress that is being made towards making this country more or less independent of external sources for the requisite supplies of cotton. Chief interest centres, of course, in development in the Sudan, but, as the report shows, a great advance is being made in many other parts of the Empire. For the time being, as I pointed out last week, we have been saved from a cotton shortage resulting from an increased demand for cotton goods by the improvement of the American crop. But we do not want to be dependent on chances of that kind. Next year the American crop may be relatively poor, in which case, if trade improves, as it may be expected to do, we shall be placed in a very difficult position. By that time, it is true, we shall have a great increase in cotton production in the Empire, but it must be some years before the yield of cotton grown in the Empire can be a vital factor in the world's production. Until that happens Lancashire's supplies must remain uncertain, and the situation demands unceasing efforts, so that in the shortest possible space of time the position may become one of relative safety.

COMMENTATOR.

NEW COMPANY.

Anglo-Abyssinian Trading and Mining.

The Anglo-Abyssinian Trading and Mining Company has been registered as a private company with a capital of £1,000 (£1 shares). The objects are to carry on in Abyssinia and elsewhere the business of manufacturers and dealers in leather, carpets, soap, candles, and Eastern products, workers of mines, etc. The first directors are: Hagop Baghdassarian; Hagop Kenyalan, 14, New Street, Bishopsgate, E.C.2, general merchant; Ezepos Benlian, 3 and 4, New Street, Bishopsgate, E.C.2, carpet importer.

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COMPANY MEETING.

South Indian Railway.

The ordinary general meeting of the South Indian Railway Company, Ltd., was held on October 22 at the offices, 91, Petty France, Westminster, S.W. Mr. Alex. Muirhead, C.I.E. (chairman and managing director), presided.

The Secretary (Mr. W. B. Reynolds) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman, in the course of his speech in moving the adoption of the report, said that the revenue account showed an increase in gross earnings of 18 lakhs of rupees, or 3.69 per cent. The board recommended a final dividend for the year of the same amount as last year—namely, 4¼ per cent. —making the total for the year 8 per cent., of which 3½ per cent. represented guaranteed interest and 4½ per cent. the contribution from surplus profits, the latter having been fully earned in the period covered by the report. The agent's cable giving the approximate results of working for the first half of the current year showed that while the earnings were down by 11½ lakhs, working expenses were also lower by 24½ lakhs, and the company's estimated share of the surplus profits for that period was Rs.3,65,000 compared with Rs.3,02,175 in the corresponding period of last year.

The Government's proposals for giving effect to the recommendation of the Acworth Committee for the establishment of a Rates Tribunal were receiving the careful attention of the board and of the company's officers with a desire, having due regard to the interests of the railway, to meet all reasonable requirements of its customers. It would be remembered that the Acworth Indian Railway Committee of 1920-21 recommended the separation of the railway finances from the general finances of the Government of India, and it was reported that the Budget proposals of that Government for giving effect to the scheme had been accepted. The actual operations and their effects on the finances and administration of individual railways remained to be seen. It was, however, understood to be the intention that for prosperous lines money should be made more freely available than in the past, and on that basis the South Indian Railway undertaking might look forward hopefully.

Another matter of interest was that under the revised contract between the company and the Secretary of State the company's capital in the undertaking on January 1, 1911, was £1,000,000 and that of Government £13,000,000 sterling, and a clause was embodied under which in the provision of any further moneys which might be required the Secretary of State should, unless it were otherwise agreed, allow the company from time to time to increase its ordinary capital to the extent required to maintain the ratio of one to thirteen, in all other respects the contract giving the Secretary of State the option of deciding by what methods the capital requirements should be met. By the year 1914 these requirements had amounted to a considerable sum, which had been provided by advances made by Government, and these advances were then repaid out of an issue of 4 per cent. debenture stock which the Secretary of State called upon the company to raise. The balance of that issue had since been expended, and the further capital requirements had again been met by sums advanced by the Secretary of State. By the end of March, 1924, these advances totalled up to about 3¾ crores of rupees, or say £2,500,000 sterling, and had thus lowered the ratio of company's to Secretary of State's capital to 1 to about 15½. The board had made representations to the Secretary of State for a readjustment of this ratio, and they awaited his decision as to the method of financing by which that adjustment was to be affected.

The report was unanimously adopted.

A section of railway nineteen miles long was opened on October 22 between Veles and Shtip, in Serbian Macedonia.

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China announces that an agency of the bank has been opened at Kuching, Sarawak.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway for the week ended September 20 amounted to Rs. 9,65,237, making the total from April 1 Rs. 2,34,88,632.

The Greek revenue returns for the first six months of the financial year 1924-25 show an increase of 180,000,000 drachmæ as compared with the corresponding period of the year 1923-24, says a Reuter message from Athens.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended September 30 amounted to £E12,510, making the total from April 1 £E142,778. The totals for the corresponding periods of 1923 were £E8,713 and £E123,011.

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Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

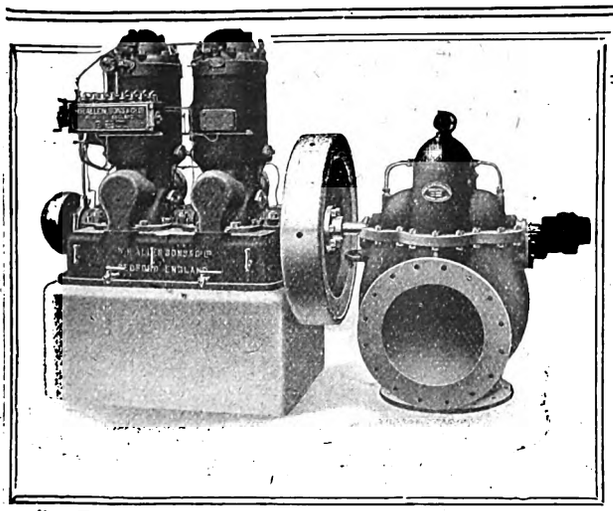
THE MOTOR SHOW.—II.

Four cars were shown at the Clyno stand, an 11 h.p. two-seater, an 11 h.p. four-seater, an 11 h.p. Royal four-seater, and an 11 h.p. four-door saloon. The chassis details of all the cars are the same. The engine is 66 bore by 100 stroke, water-cooled, with side-by-side valves. Lubrication is by plunger pump. The gear-box is of Clyno special design, and gives three forward speeds, and there is spiral bevel final drive. The wheelbase is of 8 ft. 9 in., and there is a ground clearance of 9 in. The two-seater also has accommodation for two persons in a dickey, and is an admirable car, and at £175 should be assured of a good demand. The four-seater, which costs £195, is a very fine production, while the other two models are excellent cars.

An interesting stand was that of Arnott and Harrison, who showed three cars—a 7 h.p. two-cylinder New Carden two-seater light car, a 7 h.p. two-cylinder New Carden family model de luxe light car, and a 7 h.p. two-cylinder Sheret family model de luxe light car. The engine of the two New Cardens is 75 bore by 80 stroke, and has two forward speeds and reverse, transmission by multiple disc-clutch running in oil, and hand and foot brakes operating on the back wheel, working independently. The two-seater has a 7 ft. wheelbase, and the overall length is 9 ft. 6 in. It is a workmanlike production, and a most comfortable car, being fitted with specially designed springs, while the seats are deep and roomy. Graceful to look at, it is an ideal car for the owner-driver, and at the very moderate price of £90 it is assured of a large demand. The family tourer has an overall length of 10 ft. 5 in., and is painted in saxe blue with black wings. It is fitted with a dynamo lighting set, a hood, a hood cover, side curtains, a screen, etc., and at £125 must be regarded as a very attractive proposition. It will seat three adults or two adults and three children, and the rear compartment can be used for luggage or traveller's samples. The 7 h.p. Sheret is another very useful car. The engine is 75 bore by 80 stroke, there are three forward speeds and reverse, all-chain transmission, single plate Ferodo-lined dry clutch, and hand and foot brakes operating independently on the rear wheels. The car is fitted with a dynamo lighting set, side curtains, a screen, etc., and is painted maroon, with black wings.

At the stand of Brooks Steam Motors there was shown a 24 h.p. two-cylinder double-acting steam car. The engine is 4 bore by 4½ stroke, and there is a simple slide valve developing 50 brake h.p., and a fire tube type boiler, with 71 sq. ft. heating surface. The car has a five passenger Sedan body, and is painted black, with a polished metal line. Its overall length is 15 ft. 10 in., and it has a minimum ground clearance of 9½ in. It is maintained that there are many advantages in a steam car, such as greater tire mileage, ease and economy of repairs, simplicity of operation, longer life and less depreciation, a minimum liability to freeze, etc. It is the view of the company that steam alone provides the smoothness of action, flexibility, power, ease of control, reliability, and durability demanded in the modern automobile. The company has under way the development of a steam-powered bus embodying the advantages of the present Brooks' pleasure car chassis. It would seem probable that the steam car would be very suitable for regions such as the Near East, and the same would apply also to the bus. In many important centres of the Near East the development of the use of the bus is proceeding apace, and as the conditions generally are no longer favourable for the development on a great scale of railway lines it follows that where it is possible the tendency in the future must be to rely to an ever-increasing extent on motors in their various forms as a means of linking up different places, and I am confident that companies like Brooks Steam Motors should find the Near East as a whole an important field for trade development.

McKenzie Motors showed three of their 11 h.p. four-cylinder cars, a two-seater, a four-seater, and a two-seater with a coupé body, and a 9 h.p. four-cylinder car. The engine of the 11 h.p. cars is 66 bore by 109.5 stroke, and has side valves, thermo-syphon water circulation, forced lubrication, magneto ignition, three forward speeds, spiral bevel final drive, and internal expanding brakes on the rear wheels. The wheel-base is 8 ft. 6 in., and there is a ground clearance of 8 in. The 9 h.p. car has an engine 60 bore by 95 stroke, with overhead valves, thermo-syphon water circulation, forced lubrication, magneto ignition, three forward



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speeds, spiral bevel final drive, and internal expanding brakes on the rear wheels. The wheel-base is 8 ft. 3 in.. and the track is 3 ft. 10 in. The cars are admirable productions, and are certain to prove very popular.

In these notes I have not been able to touch on more than a few of the multitude of the exhibits at the Motor Show. To do full justice to the wonderful exhibition would demand far more space than is at my disposal. The show has proved, if proof were needed, that British motor manufacturers are second to none in enterprise and initiative, and I trust that they will now devote these qualities to seeking out new markets for their products. The Near and Middle East is now beginning to absorb cars rapidly. It is a vast region, and its extent is an indication of its potentialities as a market for motors. When it is remembered that it includes, besides the Balkan countries—Greece, Yugoslavia, Roumania, and Bulgaria—and Turkey, Egypt, the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia, and Persia—when it is borne in mind that even sheikhs are now taking to the car, and that foreign firms are contemplating the establishment of factories in that region, it is unthinkable that British firms should refrain from making every effort to secure part of the future trade in motors. Everything is in their favour, given a little enterprise, adequate attention to the special needs of the Near East—the car that will do for one region would be unsuitable for another—and care that publicity is sufficient, for there is nothing to be gained by waiting for orders from the Near East. Those who have anything to sell must bring it forcibly to the attention of prospective purchasers. There is no other way to success.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97 7/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	259-261
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	310-315
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	23.35-23.37
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 31/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	93 70 93.75
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	800-810
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	340-350,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 31/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	830-845
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.49 1/16-4.49 1/4
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	86 25-86.30
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	150½ 150¾
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	103.85-.90
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	610 630
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	317-320,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	23.30-23.45

CHESS.

BY "CARO-KANN."

There is an exceptionally strong entry for the City of London Chess Club Championship this year. The competitors include the holder, Sir G. A. Thomas, Bart., who has won it on several occasions, Mr. J. H. Blake, Mr. H. Jacobs, Mr. R. C. J. Walker, Dr. S. F. Smith, and Mr .E. G. Sergeant (all of whom have held it on one or two occasions), and such strong players as Mr. R. P. Michell, Mr. V. L. Walhtuch, and Mr. H. Saunders.

Next year's British Chess Championship is to be held at Stratford-on-Avon. A referendum is to be taken to decide which Monday in August is preferred by chess players for the commencement of the annual congress.

The following game was played in the British Championship at Southport between Mr. R. H. V. Scott (White) and Mr. H. Saunders (Black):—1, P—Q4, Kt—KB3; 2, Kt—KB3, P—KKt3; 3, P—B4, P—Q4; 4, Kt—B3, B—Kt2; 5, B—B4, P—B3; 6, P—K3, Kt—R4; 7, B—K5, P—KB3; 8, B x Kt, R x B; 9, B—K2, Castles; 10, P x P, P x P; 11, Kt—KR4, P—K4; 12, P—KKt4, P—B4; 13, Kt x KtP, P x Kt; 14, P x Kt, P x QP; 15, P x QP, P—KKt4(a); 16, R—KKt1, P—Kt4; 17, R—QB1, R—K1; 18, K—B1, P—B5; 19, B—B3, B—R6ch; 20, B—Kt2, B x Bch; 21, R x B, P—QKt5; 22, Kt—R4, Q—B3; 23, Kt—B5, P—B6; 24, R—Kt3, QR—B1; 25, P—R6, Q x QP; 26, Q x Q, B x Q; 27, R x Pch, K—R2; 28, R x QP, R x Kt; 29, R x R, B x R; 30, R x B, R—K7(b); 31, R—KB5, R x P; 32, R x P, R x P; 33, R—B7ch, K x P; 34, R—QKt7, P—R4; 35, R—Kt5, R—R6; 36, K—K2, P—Kt6; 37, K—Q2, P—R5; 38, R—Kt4, R—R7ch; 39, K—B1, Drawn.

(a) A most curious position. Black has come out of the exchanges with a game which offers fair prospects, though his King's position is almost as open to attack as White's.

(b) Though White is two pawns to the good, it is a difficult matter to find a win.

Monsieur Diomedes, governor of the National Bank of Greece, left Athens last Friday for London in connection with the Refugee Loan.

The Oriental Telephone and Electric Company has declared interim dividends of 3½ per cent. on the old and new Seven per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares, less tax. An interim dividend of 4 per cent. will be paid on the old Ordinary shares, and at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the new Ordinary shares, both free of tax.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Coffee.—The market has been steady. Costa Rica is unchanged at 170s., East Indian remains at 150s., Kenya is the same at 144s., while Santos is 2s. up at 114s.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair demand. Tate's cubes are 42s. 3d., London granulated is 37s. 4½d., while Lyle's granulated is 37s. 7½d. Foreign descriptions have been fairly steady. West Indian crystallised is 6d. up at 35s. 6d., White Java is 3d. down at 34s. 9d., while Czech granulated is 3d. up at 22s. 9d. Futures are firm: November, 20s. 3d.; December, 20s. 1½d.; March, 19s. 10½d.; May, 20s.

Maize.—The market has been rather weak. La Plata, afloat, has been done at 44s., and for December-January at 47s. 9d.

Currants.—A brisk business has been done in this commodity. Shade-dried Vostizzas have been in special request, while there has also been a good demand for Gulf, Panariti, and cleaned Amalias. Prices are now at a satisfactory level for the development of business.

Sultanas.—The firm tone that was in evidence the previous week has become more pronounced owing to the decided scarcity of fruit. Prices are dearer, except for Australians, and it looks as if they would go still higher.

Figs.—A fair business has been transacted, but a marked shortage of stocks has had a restrictive influence.

Plums.—This commodity has been moving off very freely. Supplies of the fruit are none too plentiful, and there may be something approaching scarcity later on.

Dates.—Supplies of dates have now arrived, and it is to be expected that business will develop.

Oilcakes.—The market has been quite firm. Linseed cake is unchanged at 280s., cottonseed cake is the same at 180s., while coconut cake is unaltered at 240s.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been fairly steady, Indian being unchanged at 24s. 10½d., while La Plata is 9d. lower at 21s. 10½d. Rapeseed has been firm. Toria is 7½d. up at 25s. 3d., while real bold Ferozepore is unchanged at 24s. 1½d. Cottonseed has been strong. Indian is unchanged at 12s., Egyptian black is 1s. 3d. up at 15s. 3d., while Sakellaridis is 7½d. up at 14s. 7½d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed oil has been weak, closing 1s. 9d. down at 45s. Rape oil has been firm, with crude 1s. 6d. up at 52s. 6d., and technical refined 6d. up at 55s. 6d. Cotton oil has been steady. Refined common edible is unchanged at 51s. Egyptian crude is 6d. up at 45s. 6d., while deodorised is unaltered at 53s.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. report as follows for the week ended October 4:—The arrivals of sultanas on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are estimated at 25,000 tons, while the sales are put at 23,330 tons. Closing prices per cwt., c.i.f. London/Liverpool, are: Type 12, 45s.; 13, 49s.; 14, 52s.; 15, 56s.; 16, 64s.; 17, 75s. The sultana market is very firm. The fig market is firm.

In a report for the week ended October 11 Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. state:—The arrivals of sultanas are estimated at 26,500 tons, and the sales are put at 24,800 tons.

The market is strong for all grades of sultanas. Inferior fruit is in demand against forward sales, and lowest qualities are finding a market locally for distilling purposes. Medium qualities are very scarce and consequently show a firmer tendency. The very best grades are scarce and command a ready sale at full prices. Further comment on the situation is superfluous. Conclusions can be drawn by a glance at comparative figures between this and last year of sales and shipments to date. Total sales to date amount to 24,800 tons. Admitting of a crop of 40/42,000 tons (present estimate), the quantity still available for sale is about 15/17,000 tons, of which about 5,000 tons are likely to be absorbed by local distilleries.

It is extremely difficult to arrive at a correct figure of the extent of the yield of figs. Up to date the sales are 176,500 sacks, against 111,150 sacks at the corresponding period last year. Last year's yield amounted to 260,000 sacks. The crop this year is unquestionably short. About a month ago the estimate was 200,000 sacks. A fortnight ago more optimistic views prevailed, and the estimate was raised to 220,000 sacks and over. Latterly the tendency is to reduce the estimate to 220,000 sacks and under.

YUGOSLAVIA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION.

The British Commercial Secretary at Belgrade, in a recent report, states that M. K. P. Mirosavljevic, the President of the Novi Sad Chamber of Commerce, is reported in the *Belgrader Zeitung* as having made the following statement regarding the present economic situation, which, the Commercial Secretary is of opinion, applies not only in the Vojvodina, but throughout Yugoslavia.

"After the end of the war the prospects for commerce and industry in the Vojvodina were exceptionally good. As a result, many new businesses and industrial undertakings were founded, often by persons lacking the requisite experience. Many of these new concerns did not show, even in the beginning, any likelihood of being successful. In spite of this, prices rose so greatly that all could make a living.

"Now, however, the situation has changed. The newly founded concerns which had insufficient capital and lacked good technical direction must go under. Insolvencies are increasing, and from day to day the number of businesses which close down is larger. The old-established and solid concerns, however, in spite of their difficulties, manage to survive . . . . The general shortage of money is causing great difficulties. It is curious that up to now it has always been said that the peasants had the money. This idea is wrong, as the peasant has, in the literal sense, also no money. All the money the peasant has he uses to buy land or live stock, but he buys very little else excepting the most necessary articles. The raising of the gold agio (on Customs dues) to 900 per cent. has had a hampering effect on commerce. One must, however, put up with this, as it is necessary in the interests of protecting the country's industries. One must look on the present as a transition period which must be passed through.

"The very bad weather has also had a bad influence on trade, but the worst of all is the shortage of money with its logical result, the enormously high rates of interest. On the other hand, Yugoslavia will this year have a very good maize harvest, and the resultant exportation will help our balance of trade. I hope to see the good results of this during the next few weeks."

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Shipping Intelligence.

WINTER CRUISING.

Round the world in luxury for £2 a day and to the Mediterranean or the West Indies for the same cost! This winter some 4,000 people, English and American, will be seeking rest, recreation and education in special cruises in seven of the finest Cunard-Anchor ships. These ships, during the winter months, are covering a distance of some 110,000 miles, and their cruises will last from one to four and a-half months. There is, therefore, according to the time at the disposal of the passenger a cruise that will suit his or her convenience. He will have the choice of voyages to the West Indies, up and down the Mediterranean, or round the world. He will travel without trouble, will be able to see all that is to be seen in the countries of call, and will voyage in wonderful luxury throughout; and—for so these cruises have been planned—he will practically follow the Path of Springtime from land to land.

Passengers are already booking in large numbers, and although during past years—certainly from 1909 or 1910—passengers have in the majority been Americans, there is every sign this year that more English people than ever are taking part in them, hopeful of finding the sun that they have missed during the recent unseasonable summer. Although most of these cruises start from New York, European passengers can, in most cases, join the ship in a Mediterranean port. The Mauretania, for example, sails from New York for a month's Mediterranean cruise in the middle of February, but special arrangements have been made by which English passengers, wishing to join the Mauretania on her return from Egypt to Southampton, may do so by sailing from London to Port Said in February by either of the new Orient liners Oronsay and Ormuz. Those travelling by the Ormuz have six days in Egypt and by the Oronsay they have time for a more extensive tour, including a visit to the Holy Land. The return fare from London is from £70 upwards. Other ships engaged in Mediterranean cruises are the Scythia and Laconia.

World cruises last about four and a-half months, Mediterranean, with the exception of the Mauretania, about two months, and the West Indies cruises about a month. But for each a rate of about £2 a day may be taken as the basis of cost. On the world cruises some twenty-five different ports are touched at, and time is afforded at the most interesting places for journeys of varying length into the interior. The efficiency of modern travel takes the voyager safely and luxuriously in twenty thousand-ton cruising liners right into the heart of the romantic East. In the Mediterranean some seventeen or eighteen calls are made at ports on both northern and southern shores.

All the ships concerned are amongst the biggest Cunard-Anchor liners. Practically all have been built since the war, and nearly all during the past year or two have been engaged in similar cruises. As an example of the special arrangements that have been made for the benefit of travellers, with one or two exceptions they will all carry their own laundries, staffed by experienced hands, a facility which is not to be under-estimated in the case of lengthy cruises. In addition to carrying large quantities of ice, each ship can make its own supplies, an advantage of the greatest value in hot climates. Each ship carries a motor-launch which will be used for excursions at out-of-the-way ports. Although in the ordinary way carrying anything up to 2,000 passengers, parties are limited to from four to six hundred passengers, thus avoiding any suggestion of over-crowding. In each case a lengthy programme, to include deck sports, dances, whist drives, lectures, and other social events, is arranged, and the passenger, in most cases, to avoid trouble, is content to leave most matters in the hands of those directing the cruises.

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FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Circassia for Bombay (Liverpool, November 4). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Somersetshire for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 8).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 5).

British India Line.—S.s. Boyne for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 15); s.s. Malda for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 22).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Poona for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 31).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Trentino for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Galatz, and Braila (London, November 15).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Sycamore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 5). (The last steamer of the season to Galatz and Braila.) S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 22).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 5); s.s. China for Bombay (London, November 14).

BASRAH DATES SHIPMENTS.

A report received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank from Basrah, dated September 20, states:—Further shipments of dates for New York are reported this week. According to information received, the price of these shipments works out at about 17s. 6d. per cwt c.i.f. New York. Local prices have fallen about 12½ per cent. since the beginning of the month.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Variable.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended October 16, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has shown a very firm tone for Sakellaridis, whilst Uppers have reacted somewhat. The net changes on the week are :—Sakellaridis : Unchanged for November, $0.90 down for January, $1.70 down for March. Ashmouni : $1.75 down for October, $1.88 down for December, $1.60 down for February. In spite of a drop of 2.57 cents in New York, our Ashmouni contracts have only dropped about $1.75, and Sakels remain unchanged ; this exceptional strength is due more to speculative support and the carters' strike than to a commercial demand. The speculative purchases have been principally induced by the high premiums over futures paid on the spot market, the carters' strike has delayed the movement of the crop, and holders of cotton naturally take advantage of the shortage of stocks to obtain high prices from whoever requires cotton for immediate shipment. The premium of November over January is due to the same reason. We consider the situation rather exceptional, and are inclined to think that as soon as the bulk of the crop will be on the market more normal conditions will prevail. The demand from abroad has been again moderate ; in view of the high prices of our market in comparison to those of the other cotton markets it is quite natural that spinners should adopt a reserved policy. The Government has this week operated in the spot market, but has bought only a negligible quantity. The week's receipts amount to 363,642 krs., against exports 172,515 krs. ; the stock stands at 1,081,901 krs.

Spot.—We have had a fairly busy week at Minet el Bassal, and sales for the five business days amount to about 22,200 B/s, of which we estimate 12,450 B/s Sakel, 4,000 B/s Uppers, 5,200 B/s Zagora, 400 B/s Pilion, 100 B/s White, and 50 B/s Brown. The Government entered the spot market on October 16 and bought 185 B/s Uppers and Zagora, mainly high grades. There has been a carters' strike for the last few days, which, by preventing any movement of cotton in Alexandria, has rather disturbed business by creating an artificial scarcity of offerings, with a consequent rise in spot premiums. Arrivals have been heavy, and there is great congestion at the railways. It will be a few days before the movement of cotton can become normal.

Sakellarides.—The bulk of the business has been in cotton from good fair to fully good, though a small demand has also appeared for fully fair. Prices of spot against contracts are generally rather dearer, with the exception of fully fair, and below which are without change.

Uppers.—Cotton from good fair upwards has been in most request, and only a small business has been done in grades below good fair. Prices of spot against contracts are rather dearer for cotton above fully good fair, and unchanged for other grades. All upper cotton is firmly held, and holders are very difficult to deal with at present.

Lower Egypt Zagora has been in much better demand, and as a consequence spot premiums are appreciably dearer than last week.

Pilion has been in fair request for the medium and good grades. Prices of spot against contracts are rather dearer.

Brown has been in limited request at rather dearer spot premiums.

White.—A small business has been done without much change in prices.

Crop 1924.—The top crop in the Northern and Central districts of the Delta is quite satisfactory ; picking is now almost completed in all districts. There are still some plantations with green top bolls, but, owing to the advanced period of the season, the quantity of cotton which may be produced from them cannot but be negligible.

The report of the Ministry of Agriculture for September reads :—During the greater part of the month under review day and night temperatures were above normal. In Lower Egypt humidity was high during the second week of the month ; with this exception, low relative humidity prevailed everywhere. The weather, generally speaking, was favourable to maturation of the crop. Progress of picking is well advanced, being at least fifteen days earlier than last year and seven days earlier than in 1923. In basin lands picking is practically completed. The earliness in ripening of the crop has been accompanied by a corresponding earliness in development of the boll-worm infestation, with consequent tendency to equilibrium of these influences on crop prospects.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Near East Demand for Cloth.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended October 25 states :—

The all-round condition of the markets during the past week can best be described as steady, without fluctuations of much importance either one way or the other. The main item of interest has been the proposal of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation to increase the working hours of the mills spinning American cotton from 26¼ hours to 32 hours per week. The alteration is to take effect in a week's time. There is little doubt that pressure was exerted in this matter by the general body of cloth manufacturers in order to bring about an increase of production.

Yarn.—Spinners have maintained the firmer attitude reported last week. Had it not been for this, a bigger turnover would probably have taken place, as many users anticipate that the increased supply which will result from longer working hours can

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hardly fail to bring about some reduction in price. On the other hand, it is contended that the larger output will do no more than keep pace with increased requirements, and that the one factor will balance the other. In the meantime there are no grounds for complaining of the actual amount of business being transacted, and spinners appear willing to stand firm and let the future take care of itself.

Cloth.—Rather less business has been done during the past week than in the preceding one, probably due, as in the case of yarn, to the waiting attitude which buyers are adopting. China has been in the market to a fair extent, in spite of the continuance of unsettled political conditions, and in certain lines of goods India has placed some very acceptable orders. Egypt and the Near East have both been active, particularly in standard lines. South America has picked up certain styles of goods, but the home trade houses are reported to buy nothing beyond their immediate requirements.

Raw Cotton.--Day-to-day price fluctuations, although sometimes exceeding 30 points, have resulted in little alteration on the week. On balance there is a slight decline in American and a slight increase in Egyptian. The market is now waiting for the official Bureau Report, which is due to-day, and is acting cautiously in the meanwhile. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American middling, 13.45; Egyptian fully good fair, 25.45.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Conditions Practically Unchanged.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 22:—

Egyptian Spot.—Conditions on the spot are practically identical with those maintaining during the previous week, and, with the exception of to-day, when a certain stiffening has occurred following the stronger futures markets, the trend of prices has again been in a downward direction. The arrival of two cotton ships (the Algerian Prince and the Hatasu) has made little appreciable difference in the situation, and the bulk of Egyptian spinners still give the appearance of being woefully short of cotton for their immediate requirements. Without exception, they all regard present prices as too high, and as being entirely unwarranted for this time of the year, and the recent action of the Egyptian Government in attempting to support the Alexandria market has only served to confirm this belief. One and all, they continue to defer buying in quantity, and persist in the hand-to-mouth policy which has been such a feature of the trade buying for the past two months. Apart from this expectation of a drop in prices, the impending General Election is not calculated to induce confidence amongst would-be buyers, and this fact should not be lost sight of in calculating the future course of events. A fair general inquiry has been in evidence, and spot sales, which have averaged only 200 Egyptian per diem, have proved somewhat disappointing.

A request for cotton "landing or near" has accompanied a large proportion of the Sakel inquiries, a fact which speaks for itself. Fully Good Fair to Good Sakel at from 23½d. to 25d. has been a very popular order, and has probably been responsible for the bulk of the business transacted. The supply available is small, and prices are somewhat irregular, but, generally speaking, there is a disposition amongst sellers to meet buyers, and so make the most of the current rate of values before succeeding shipments force the basis to ease. In Sudan Sakel, the inquiry has been only moderate, but on one day at the commencement of the week a line of 500 bales changed hands at 23.50d. The market is now flooded with high grade Uppers and Zagoras, and prices vary considerably; as much as a penny per lb. in some cases has been noted as the difference between sellers of the same style of cotton. During the past week several shippers, actuated no doubt by the recent reports of damage to the Upper Egyptian crop, have raised the basis for Uppers from ¼d. to ½d. per lb. The lower grades of Upper have this week come in for an increased share of attention, both for spot and shipment. On the spot, there is practically nothing available in these grades except "re-cleaned" Upper, which does not meet with much favour amongst Lancashire spinners.

Pilion, Brown, and White have all been inquired for on a moderate scale, but with little tangible result. A fairly good inquiry for c.i.f. cotton has been noticeable, but on only one occasion has a line of any weight been reported. The majority of the sales have been done in twenty-fives and fifties. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 17th inst. were returned as 6,625 bales. Estimated sales, 1,200 bales Egyptian and 650 bales Sudan. Quotations are reduced 35 points, Extra Fine Sakel exceptionally being 20 points lower, and Extra Fine Uppers and Brown 25 points lower. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis to-day 24.70d.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Diesel Motor.—The Egyptian Government invite tenders for the supply of a Diesel or Semi-Diesel motor of 30 h.p.—November 12.

Looms, etc.—The Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of (1) Looms and preparatory machines required for the Trades School at Mansûra. (2) Machines for rug factory at Assiout. November 15.

Leather.—The Egyptian Ministry of Education invites tenders for the supply of leather required for the model workshops and trades schools of the Ministry. November 15. (D.O.T.)

Water Tower.—The Ministry of the Interior in Egypt invites tenders for the supply and erection of a water tower at Mit Ghamr. December 1. (D.O.T.)

Soap. — The Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 110 tons of hard soap to Egyptian Army Supply Stores, Tura. December 2.

Railway Sleepers.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of wooden railway sleepers. December 16.

Bulgaria.

Fishplates, etc.—The Bulgarian Direction of State Railways, Posts, and Telegraphs invites tenders for the supply of 409 tons of fishplates and chairs, and 846 tons of bolts, clips, and washers. A deposit equal to 5 per cent. of the value of the order is required. November 10. (D.O.T.)

Turkey.

Wagons.—The Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply of 40 wagons for rails and ballast, of which 25 are for the Angora-Moussakeuy line and 15 for the Samsoun-Siva line. November 21. (D.O.T.)

Bridges.—The Commissariat of Public Works invites tenders for the supply and erection of five metal bridges on the Samsoun-Sivas line. November 22 (D.O.T.)

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EMPIRE COTTON GROWING.

Increasing Production.

The third annual general meeting of the Empire Cotton-Growing Corporation was held on October 23, at Millbank House, Westminster. Lord Derby, President of the Corporation, presided, while those present included Sir James Currie, Sir E. Bartley-Denniss, Mr. W. H. Himbury, Colonel Shute, Mr J. S. Addison, and Mr. A. Foster.

The report presented at the meeting gave a detailed account of the activities of the Corporation. We give the following extracts :—

The Indian Sub-Committee of the Corporation had under consideration the question of the steps that might be taken in order to bring further under the immediate notice of spinners the merits of those Indian cottons that are suitable for use in Lancashire, and especially of new types. As a first step, the Oldham Master Cotton Spinners' Association were kind enough to arrange that spinning tests should be carried out on certain typical Indian cottons already well known in this country on bales which were purchased on the market in the ordinary way on behalf of the Corporation. The Indian Central Cotton Committee is now sending home a further supply of improved cottons. Spinning tests will similarly be carried out upon them, so that their properties may be compared with those already tested. The Secretary of the Indian Central Cotton Committee has undertaken to supply information as to the quantities available of each of the improved types that are being sent. On the publication of the Report of Lord Lee's Commission on the Indian Services the chairman and the director sought an interview with the Secretary of State, and communicated to him the apprehension felt by the Corporation that the adoption of the Commission's recommendations would render impossible the recruitment of the best kind of European technical officers for agricultural service in India, and laid stress on the consequent deterioration which they feared would follow in the quality of the India cotton crop. Lord Olivier heard the Corporation's views with the greatest courtesy, but it is feared that the political situation in India will render inevitable the adoption of, at all events, the main findings of Lord Lee's Commission.

At the request of the Sudan Government, the Corporation arranged that Sir John Russell and Dr. H. M. Leake should pay a visit to that territory, in order to report to the Government and to the Corporation regarding the organisation of scientific work bearing on agriculture in the Sudan, and agreed to bear a part of the cost. A report of their tour has been received by the Corporation, and is under the joint consideration of the Executive Committee and the Sudan Government. The Reports calls attention to the need for research work on the soil in order to deal with the problems that are likely to arise from salting, a source of trouble which is inherent in all irrigation schemes where natural drainage is deficient. It also advocates that steps should be taken to safeguard the supply of pure seed, and makes suggestions as to the organisation by means of which the work indicated can best be carried out. When the Sudan Government and the Sudan Plantations Syndicate have agreed as to the share which each should take in the work that is proposed, the Corporation's Sudan Sub-Committee will be asked to advise as to how effect can best be given to the recommendations contained in the Report. In the meantime the Corporation propose to lend their aid by supplying a soil chemist and a plant breeder, if suitably qualified men can be found. The decision of Parliament to guarantee the balance of the loan required for the Makwar Dam and canalisation project should enable the work to be completed next year if the present rate of construction is continued. The completion of the canalisation now being carried out will enable an area of 300,000 feddans to be developed, of which one-third will be under cotton each year.

The Kassala Railway was opened for traffic so as to transport the current season's crop, though it was suspended again during the rains. Experience of the flood conditions is necessary, in order that information may be obtained as to the strength required for some of the bridges and culverts, but it is anticipated that all such work will be finally completed and the line in regular working order in time for the next crop.

Advantage was taken of Dr. Leake's visit to the Sudan to ask him to pay a visit to the Upper Nile and Nuba Mountains country, in order that the Corporation might be in possession of authoritative information as to its possibilities as a source of rain-grown cotton. Dr. Leake has reported that, so far as climate and soil are concerned, this area, and, in fact, the greater part of the Southern Sudan, should be capable of producing large quantities of cotton, the chief difficulties in its immediate development being lack of transport and sparseness of population. Development in the cultivation of rain-grown cotton south of the line at which the annual rainfall becames adequate is now being actively pushed by the Sudan Government, which has recently appointed five extra agricultural inspectors so as to increase the personnel available for such work. The Sudan Government consulted the Corporation in the selection of these Inspectors. The recent high prices for cotton have stimulated considerable interest among native cultivators, and the demands for seed for next year's crop show a remarkable advance.

In moving the adoption of the report Lord Derby said that since last year there had been some slight improvement in the cotton trade. The American crop was larger than it had been for some years past, and, though it would be rash to predict a continuation of the increase, it might be said to have eased the situation at a moment when there were signs of increased purchases of the manufactured material from the Continent. The increase of Empire grown cotton had been small compared with the world's crop, but there had been a most satisfactory proportionate improvement over last year's output, and there was every indication that this increase would be relatively larger this year.

In the Sudan the past year had seen steady and continuous progress with the Makwar Dam, the completion of which would make it possible to put a large additional area under cotton.

The Corporation had during the past twelve months co-operated with the Indian Central Cotton Committee in bringing to the notice of Lancashire those Indian-grown cottons that were believed likely to be of value to the trade. This was a particularly useful form of activity, because not only would it stimulate interest in these types of cottons, but it would encourage Indian growers to improve the quality of their cotton. In Mesopotamia the good work of the Department of Agriculture and the British Cotton-Growing Association was beginning to bear fruit, and last year 1,000 bales of good cotton were grown in that territory. There was every prospect of increased production during the coming year.

The report was unanimously adopted.

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Reserve Fund - - £340,000

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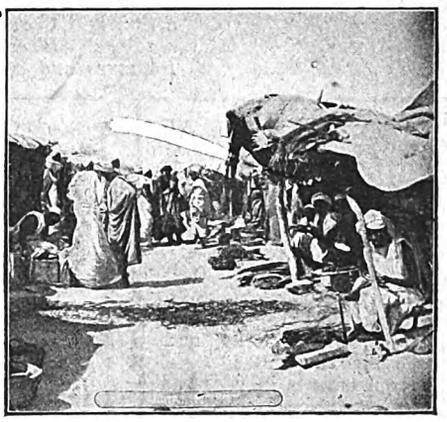

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No. 704—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The General Election.

Upon an election in which questions of foreign policy, with the exception of that of Russia, played but little part, it is not for us to make much comment. But we can at least congratulate the country, without in any way disparaging past Administrations, in that the overwhelming victory of the Conservatives gives them an unrivalled opportunity to pursue in foreign matters a policy at once strong and continuous. Certainly they will never be allowed to forget—one may reasonably hope that they will never be prompted to forget—the five and a-half million votes that were cast on behalf of the Labour Party; and this fact alone may perhaps remove anxiety from countries which go in fear of the old bogey of a "Tory iron-hand." The major party has within it most diverse elements, and, while one is inclined to pause a minute in lament, from the point of view of the conduct of foreign affairs, of the anticipated eclipse of the Liberal Party, it is to be trusted that an adequate opposition, by which we mean the exercise of vigilant and informal criticism and inquiry, will be provided by the Conservatives themselves. The party has in this respect an immense responsibility, for it is not fair to expect from so young a group as the Labour Party any abundance of intelligent questioning on foreign affairs. This said, we hasten to congratulate the country on the Government it deserves.

Agreement in Yugoslavia?

The crisis in Yugoslavia which arose out of the enforced resignation of M. Davidovitch still lingers on, but there are at last signs that agreement will be reached. Last week the King entrusted to M. Timotievitch the task of forming a Cabinet, but so far his mandatory has been unsuccessful. There appears now, however, to be a widespread feeling that this prolonged Ministerial crisis is intolerable, and M. Timotievitch is continuing negotiations with the Radical Party, who have agreed to join the Coalition Cabinet. To such a Cabinet the Davidovitch *bloc* has also given its consent, although it has laid down certain conditions. Among them, happily, no demand for the entry of the Raditch Party is to be found, for M. Raditch's last eccentric acts seem to have been too much even for the Democrats. There is more than the possibility, therefore, that in a few days the long overdue solution of the Ministerial crisis will be imposed on Yugoslavia.

Iraq's Provisional Frontier.

The vexing question concerning the *status quo* of Iraq's northern boundary was last week answered by the Council of the League of Nations at Brussels, and, like all academic solutions of practical problems, the answer has not been wholly approved by practical men. But in the main the League, and especially Great Britain and Turkey, are to be congratulated; evacuation of territory now being administered contrary to the resolutions concerning the delimitation of the provisional frontier is to be carried out by November 15, and the matter is thus, for a few months at any rate, raised out of the zone of danger. Manifestly, both Britain and Turkey—and they both had a case—were sincere in their professions before the League of desire for peace; and it is not extravagant to hope that some show of tranquillity will descend upon the villages of the disputed "No Man's Land" during the next five months, at the end of which we may look for the report of the Commission of three which is finally delimiting the frontier. There is little doubt that the provisional line is a workable line; and the fact that both Britain and Turkey were at pains to explain to the League that this line does not engage the future will but make closer our scrutiny of the way in which the League's latest finding is obeyed.

Palestine and the League.

The examination which the High Commissioner of Palestine underwent last week before the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations was exhaustive, and, in the detailed aspect, complete. In face, therefore, of the brief summary of the Commission's remarks to the effect that "they realised the difficulties inherent to the administration of Palestine," one is left to draw one's own conclusions. Perhaps it would not be far wrong to suppose that, since all the figures that Sir Herbert Samuel supplied, whether they referred to the military Budget, the rate of Jewish immigration, public health, and so on, were, so to speak, improving figures, the Commission were thinking mainly of the larger internal political and economic

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situation. In this connection their desire to have next year a special report upon the administration of Trans-Jordan is to be noted, for its fulfilment may cause a certain flutter in the dovecotes of Amman (that is, assuming, of course, that the birds by that time will not have flown). But, as the Commission stated in reply to a report sent to them by the Executive Committee of the Arab Congress in Palestine, their sole duty is to watch over the application of the terms of the mandate. The rights and the wrongs of Palestine are for Great Britain to expose. At present she is, it must be confessed, still groping or befoggedly holding straight on in Palestine; and neither the construction of a Jewish National Home nor of an homogeneous Palestinian nation is yet in sight. It is possible to hope, however, that with the decline of the fortunes of the ex-King of the Hejaz, the Arabs of Palestine may be found less intransigent, and may be induced to take a wider part in the governing of the country. As to the Jews, although, as Sir Herbert demonstrated, about 40,000 have entered the country during the last five years, and although it has been calculated that in thirty years' time the scale, from the aspect of numbers, will be turning in favour of the Jews, it is now fully recognised that the National Home must in the main be a spiritual home. Manifestly, we have still a long row to hoe in the Holy Land, and our political husbandmen will have to be as apt and unwearying as the Jewish agricultural immigrants themselves.

Hodeida and the Yemen.

The fact that Britain's eyes need more close direction than ever upon the Yemen, upon which we commented last week, has been very quickly exemplified. Hodeida, the port which is the main point at issue between this country and the Imam Yehia, has once more changed hands. This place has had a most interesting history in the last few years. After it was evacuated by the British in February, 1921, it was taken over by the late Mohammed ibn Ali el-Idrisi, Emir of Asir. This man, whose family came from the Sudan, was pro-British, and it was in part, presumably, because during the War he availed himself of the chance to renew the old feud between Asir and Sanaa, that the idea has gained currency that the Imam Yehia is no friend of this country. However that may be, it is certain that he reduced the merchants of Hodeida to despair by his system of taxation, and upon his death, in March, 1923, it was hoped that his son succeeding him, the Idrisi Emir Seyyid Ali of Sabia and Abu Arish, might improve matters. But it was not to be. The present claimant to the Emirate of Asir has proved to be both reactionary and anti-British (it seems necessary to point out that there is a distinction), and it was with some considerable show of reason that his kinsman the Seyyid Mustapha allied himself, after having vainly tried to depose him in favour of the late Emir's brother, the Seyyid Hassan, with the Seyyid Abdel Kadir and with Mahmud Nadim Bey (the latter, incidentally and significantly, by way of being *persona grata* with the Imam of the Yemen). In April of this year he succeeded in getting hold of Hodeida.

The Future of the Port.

His tenure of the port was not to endure long. For it is now reported, from Aden, that the ruler at Sabia has defeated the Seyyid Mustapha, and that Hodeida is once more in the hands of the Imam's rivals. Obviously there is little finality in this. Another struggle for possession of this wilted port will almost surely occur. Colonel Jacob has, indeed, already hinted in *The Times* that Seyyid Mustapha may act in concert with Imam Yehia, who cannot be expected indefinitely to see the development of his country retarded for lack of a port. It is a delicate matter, admittedly, for Britain at this stage to interfere and to judge upon the respective merits of Arabian rulers, but there appears to be little doubt that if this country does not step in, other countries will. Italy, for example, has a deep knowledge of and ulterior friendship with the Emir Ali of Sabia, and both she and France are closely interested in the future of the whole Yemen. France, in fact, appears to be ready to step in where she imagines that Britain and Italy will not be allowed to tread. In short, there would seem to be every reason for this country, by assenting to the possession by the Imam of Hodeida—and it is futile to suggest that we are not concerned with the boundaries of the different Arab rulers—to get for once and for at least some time on a reasonable footing with the master of the Yemen. Sanaa, just as Sofia to the Ægean, must have an outlet to the Red Sea. The warning that the Hejaz has given Great Britain is certainly a fearful one, but it cannot be said to be wholly applicable. There there were no foreign rivals to our policy; here the present opportunity may not reoccur for years.

INDIA.

India in the New Parliament.

The House of Commons elected last week contains, like its immediate predecessor, a body of Indian experience which should suffice to keep it from going seriously wrong, most of the old authorities having returned, and having been joined by valuable recruits. The most conspicuous loss is Mr. Hope Simpson, who shared the common fate of Liberals in the Western Counties. On the other hand, the election of Sir George Lloyd brings a combination of experience and driving power which will prove of the utmost value when Indian questions come before Parliament, while Mr. George Pilcher, recently of the *Statesman*, ought to make an effective representative not merely of the Calcutta point of view, but also of the peasantry, whose interests he championed whole-heartedly in the recent discussions on the tariff. To speak frankly, we cannot welcome the return of Mr. Saklatvala, for, while there are obvious advantages in having at least one Indian in the House, the peculiar brand of Communism which has won the

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approval of Battersea is as un-Indian as anything it is possible to conceive, and the rowdiness which characterised his campaign has led stay-at-home people to suppose, quite wrongly, that Indian elections are normally conducted on similar lines.

The Attitude of Bengal.

The reaction of Bengal to the action taken by Government against the anarchist conspiracy has followed the lines which must unfortunately be regarded as normal. The quiet people, who are pleased, are with very rare exceptions concerned only to keep their satisfaction to themselves, while the politicians are raging furiously, and the various sections appear to be united for the moment in the view that there can be no possible justification for the arrests. A more advanced community would hold its judgment in suspense until it knew something about the evidence on which action was taken, but Bengal is very backward in political matters, and prefers to commit itself in advance, trusting to its ingenuity or its luck to escape from a position which may prove to be untenable. Meanwhile we see that the Corporation of Calcutta has decided to put the citizens to a certain amount of inconvenience by suspending its business for a day as a protest. We can conceive something of the same kind occurring in Poplar, or even in Battersea, but to ask whether it would be possible in cities like Birmingham or Manchester, where civic life is a reality, is to furnish a measure of the distance which Calcutta has still to traverse on the road to civilisation.

Politics versus Economics.

It is, we hope, significant that even in election week *The Times* was able to provide large type for a letter from an Indian gentleman suggesting that what India really needs is economics rather than politics. The idea is, of course, not new, but its recent progress beneath the surface of Indian thought is, in our judgment, one of the most encouraging factors in the present situation. The gist of the letter in question lies in the phrase "We need another Curzon," a slogan which would drive the politicians to fury, but makes a powerful appeal to the students, who are now gradually realising that the foundations of a new India were being quietly but truly laid amidst the violent controversies of twenty years ago. The question these students are asking is why the building proceeds so slowly. They see capital and labour diverted to edifices of greater architectural pretensions, but less urgently required; they feel that valuable time is being lost, and they want to see another master-builder appointed to carry on Lord Curzon's work. We sympathise strongly with this point of view, but perhaps we may suggest to those who hold it that the times have changed, and that their task must be to organise opinion in India itself, rather than seek a lead from England. Each province has, or might have, its own Ministers responsible for agricultural and industrial development. They are the people to carry on Lord Curzon's work, and the reason why they are going so slowly is that effective popular pressure is not yet operating. When the cart is stuck in the mud it is better to lend a hand than to pray for help from a Hercules, or even from a Curzon.

The Neutral Commission to investigate on the spot and to report to the League of Nations on the line to be adopted as the permanent frontier between Turkey and Iraq has been appointed. It consists of Count Paul Telecky, who has twice been Prime Minister of Hungary (July-December, 1920, and December, 1920, to April, 1921), M. C. E. T. af Wirsen, who was appointed Swedish Minister to Bucharest and Belgrade in March, 1922, and Colonel Paulis, late of the Belgian artillery.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Election Landslide.

Not even the most optimistic Conservative expected the landslide of last Wednesday and Thursday. It was known, of course, that seats would be won, but, at best, it was hoped that the Tories would just get a majority, and, at worst, it was feared that they would just fail to get a clear majority over both parties. Actually, they have obtained 409 seats out of 615; Labour has lost nearly 50, and the party is reduced to 152; the Liberals were nearly extinguished between the upper and the nether millstone, and count only 41; while there are four Independents, of whom the famous Mr. Scrymgeour, the Prohibitionist from Dundee, is one.

This, as one enthusiastic Tory remarked to me in the small hours of Thursday morning, when the loud speaker was broadcasting victories at the rate of one a minute, is "good enough." It is, indeed, almost too good, for every practical politician recognises that a strong Opposition is almost as essential to the proper working of Parliamentary institutions as a strong Government. We have secured the latter, but the former has disappeared. For the time being, however, we are bearing the minor misfortune with proper equanimity.

The commentators are all preaching from the text that the election was a straight fight between Socialism and anti-Socialism in which the country delivered a decisive verdict. That is true, but it is not the whole truth. The ordinary Englishman does not think on abstract lines, and he is impatient of "-isms" and sovereign remedies. There may possibly be nine million anti-Socialists in the country—that is, roughly, the total of the Conservative and Liberal vote; but there are certainly not five and a-half million Socialists—yet that is the total Labour vote.

What really happened was that the country tired of minority Government and decided that the Government was not equal to its task. This conviction has been growing slowly for several months. Last January the first Labour Government was given a cordial, if rather embarrassed, welcome by its dispossessed rivals and the country generally, and the national instinct of fair play determined that it should have a good run for its money—and a still better run, one may add, for our money. On the whole, the timid were speedily reassured; there

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were no signs of revolution in the offing, mistakes could be quite reasonably credited to inexperience, and by July the Cabinet could boast of a successful Budget and a reasonably successful foreign policy.

That was their high-water mark. Then came the Campbell case, with its suspicion of the hidden hand interfering with justice. Then came the Russian Treaty, with its suggestion of the hidden hand interfering with finance. Then came the unpleasant revelation about Mr. MacDonald's motor-car, which showed the Prime Minister lacking in candour and delicacy. And, finally, the Zinovieff letter, which showed the Cabinet at cross-purposes. The cumulative effect of all these things made the country feel that the Government was not efficient and not quite to be trusted.

For that reason it voted Conservative, as the only certain alternative, but it is to be noted that the total Labour vote has gone up. It is true, of course, that Labour ran more candidates, but their vote has, as was expected, increased in many of the Southern constituencies. Unless, therefore, there is a revival of Liberalism during the next few years, Labour will remain the alternative Government—and in 1929 it will try for power again.

The Future of Liberalism.

Exultant Tories are already saying that the Liberal Party is dead, and the one consolation of the Labour men is that they killed it. The conclusion is premature. Liberalism had cruel luck; an unkind fate defeated Mr. Asquith at Paisley, and two of its most brilliant younger men in Mr. Jowett and Mr. E. D. Simon. Mr. Runciman returns, like Rip Van Winkle, to a world that has forgotten him; Wales is still faithful to that typical Welshman Sir Alfred Mond; and Mr. Lloyd George and Sir John Simon both increased their majorities. But the average Liberal is less happy than would be expected under the leadership of this brilliant solicitor and not less brilliant barrister.

My own impression is that Liberalism will revive in a few years. The taunt that it has no new recruits is no longer true, for the young blood at Oxford and Cambridge is beginning to favour Liberalism rather than Labour in these days; and it is untrue to say that it has no policy. The new Manchester school has thought out a complete social and economic policy with which one may agree or not, but which is at least an original contribution to politics. The difficulty is that it is rather academic and forbidding in its present enunciation, and is not yet understood by the people.

The Government's Resignation.

For the next five years, then, we shall have a stable Government, and a real majority Government with a solid public opinion behind it. This will be good for British prestige and good for British trade, and—what is perhaps not less important—the freedom from political uncertainty will be good for British nerves.

The Government has wisely decided not to meet Parliament; it will present its collective resignations to the King this week, and Mr. Baldwin will be sent for to form his new Government. The political clubs are humming with personal gossip about place-hunters, but a great deal of this may be discounted, for the simple reason that Mr. Baldwin is in a stronger position now than when he last took office.

Labour in Opposition.

In the next few months Labour will face its real crisis. Its resounding defeat, the certainty that it will be a minority for several years, and the possibility that it will never be anything more than a minority, will tend to discourage its constitutionalists and to encourage its more extreme members, who talk darkly of the revolution that they dare not openly support. This in turn will exacerbate the difference between the more patriotic section and those who believe in a class war *à la Russe* at home, and a difficult situation may develop within the party. The country has dealt so thoroughly with the extremists who have discredited the party that its only chance of rehabilitating its credit lies in purging itself of its anti-patriotic element; but it has yet to prove that it can do this. On its action depend great issues in the future of English politics.

The Labour Party differs from its two elder brethren in politics in electing its leader every year, and not once for all. There may, therefore, be some significance in the fact that rumour is already busy with the report that Mr. MacDonald will be superseded after a decent interval, and that Mr. Thomas will be asked to replace him.

It is admitted on all sides that Mr. Thomas has increased his reputation at the Colonial Office; and the fact that he has leanings towards Imperialism, whereas his chief is a pacifist, has done him no harm with the general public.

Mr. Snowden has also increased his reputation as Chancellor of the Exchequer. The City liked and respected him, and he is admittedly a bigger man than Mr. Thomas. But the physical disability of his lameness debars him from the leadership, and it is this same trouble, probably, which makes him lack the *bonhomie* which is an asset to Mr. Thomas, who prides himself that he calls everybody except the King, the Prince of Wales, and possibly the Archbishop of Canterbury, by their Christian names.

The Closing of Wembley.

Wembley closed on Saturday in a downpour of rain. The final ceremony, which the Prince of Wales attended—the very day after his return from Canada—was as impressive as anything can be under a forest of umbrellas; but it was being whispered that the return of a new Government was likely to be favourable to the chance of its reopening next year.

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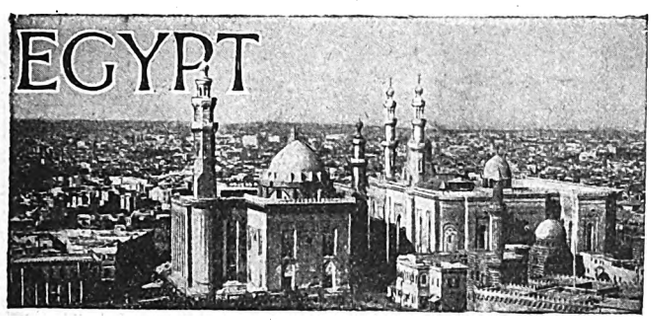

Cairo, October 24.

Return of Zaghloul Pasha.

The great preparations made for the return of Saad Zaghloul Pasha from his trip to Europe and London resulted in his receiving a very warm welcome. The harbour was crowded with small craft, which, together with the bedecked quays, made a quite picturesque scene, and he was given an ovation as he drove through Alexandria to San Stefano Casino. After a long audience with King Fuad at Montaza Palace, he attended a tea party given in his honour, and his speech—the first since his return—roused his audience—composed to a great extent of students—to a high pitch of enthusiasm. The next morning, accompanied by the Ministers and a large number of members of Parliament, he came up to Cairo by special train, and, both on the journey to the capital and along the route to his house, he had a warm ovation. That same evening he attended a reception in a marquee pitched quite close to his house, where he made another speech, which, for all practical purposes, was a duplicate of the one delivered at San Stefano the previous afternoon.

Beyond a banquet this evening at the Continental Hotel given in his honour by the Senators and Deputies, no other entertainments are to take place, Zaghloul Pasha having expressed a wish that neither receptions nor demonstrations should be held, as he wanted to get on with the work of government, from which he had been so long absent.

It is now certain—the Premier left, indeed, little doubt in his first speech—that Zaghloul Pasha intends to retain office. In regard to this everyone is relieved, for, while each wants, for his own object, to see Saad Pasha continue as responsible head of the Government, there is general agreement that his presence at the head of affairs is, under existing conditions, the sole guarantee for the preservation of public peace, which everyone recognises is essential.

The Premier's Task.

He has, however, an exceedingly difficult task before him, and there is little doubt that he fully realises this. No matter how the Egyptian Press —and, from their own point of view, very rightly—try to make out that Egypt, far from losing anything, has gained as a result of the London conversations, the fact remains that at the bottom of their hearts everyone realises that Zaghloul Pasha's mission to London, however unofficial and private it may have been, has proved a fiasco which cannot fail to have its consequences for Egypt in the near future.

There is, indeed, an atmosphere of depression everywhere. Saad Pasha's reception, although enthusiastic, cannot be said to have been on the whole as warm or as spontaneous as on the occasion of his departure. His speeches, although marked with all his habitual eloquence, lacked snap. They were the utterances of a man who, realising that he has failed, is seeking to justify that failure and reassure himself of the allegiance of his fellow countrymen. On both occasions he had a triumph, but it was a triumph due entirely to his personal magnetism.

Loyalty to him is still expressed by all who have followed him in the recent past, but murmurs are beginning to be heard in the ranks at the abuses committed since the present Cabinet came to office. The more moderate are, moreover, calling for immediate action to remedy the evil and give an impetus to internal development, which they say has been sorely neglected. Zaghloul Pasha recognises the justice of their demands, and is much inclined to act in accordance therewith. But the extremists in his party are pressing for the adoption of a policy of passive resistance and persistent hostility to Great Britain, and he is finding it difficult to resist them.

Added to this, Zaghloul Pasha knows full well that there are certain questions affecting the *status quo* that will have to be dealt with in the very near future. Action in this respect was suspended in view of the conversations in London—a fact which shows how confident all the authorities were that some amicable agreement would be come to; but it cannot be delayed much longer, and the nature of such action will depend on the policy which the Egyptian Government adopts from now onward.

Parliament reassembles on November 15, and by then Zaghloul Pasha will have to make a decision as to his future policy.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, October 28.

Ministers' Return from Italy.

The Prime Minister, Mon. Fan Noli, accompanied by M. Gurakuqi, Minister of Finance, has returned to Albania from attending the Assembly of the League after a fortnight's stay in Rome, where

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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he had a number of conversations with Signor Mussolini. The question of a loan to Albania by the Italian Government was discussed. An exchange of Notes was also made with the Russian Ambassador with regard to the mutual *de jure* recognition of their respective Governments.

Albania and the League.

The chief matters raised at the League by Albania regarded the evacuation by the Greeks of the fourteen villages allotted to Albania by the Frontier Commission in the disputed districts near Koritza; and the treatment of Albanian minorities in the Chimaria (the coastal region on the mainland opposite Corfu). It was decided to refer the first question to the Council of Ambassadors with the recommendation that the latter should request the Greeks to evacuate the villages with the least possible delay. The second question was concerned with the alleged deportation of Mohammedan Albanians on the plea of their being Turks under the terms of the Treaty of Lausanne dealing with the exchange of minorities. It was agreed that the *status quo* should be maintained pending the dispatch of a League representative to the spot to investigate the question. This representative will also visit certain Greek villages in Southern Albania to inquire into the treatment of Greek minorities about which Greece lodged a counter complaint.

The statesmanlike and conciliatory attitude adopted by the Greek representative at the League, M. Politis, has been warmly appreciated in Government circles here.

The Government.

Monsignor Fan Noli's Government appears to be well established, and there are no signs of any attempt to upset the result of the May revolution. In August some trouble was reported near Premeti among the more forward elements of the Nationalist Party, but it has since died down. Likewise, an attempted outbreak at Himara, the isolated Greek township in the Acroceraunian Mts., was easily dealt with.

Preparations are now being made for new elections. It has been decided to hold them under the existing electoral system of double elections, and to leave the question of reform to the new Assembly, which it is expected will meet in March.

The present Government is anxious to maintain the Regency of four members as the most suitable form of Constitution under existing conditions, the Regents to be appointed for a term of years by Parliament, and to have their prerogatives strengthened. At the moment there is only one Regent in office, M. Petsi, representative of the Orthodox persuasion. It is further suggested that the number of members of Parliament should be reduced. The Government programme contains, besides these points, a project of land reform, entailing the breaking up of the large estates (not without compensation) and radical reforms of taxation. It is expected that the oil and tobacco concessions will come up for discussion again about May. The Government is particularly anxious to prevent these questions dragging on beyond the coming year.

The Budget.

Meantime, the chief task of the Government has been the balancing of the Budget. This has been accomplished by dint of a rigorous cutting down of administrative expenses. A number of officials were dispensed with, and a successful appeal was made to the remainder to forgo from 5 per cent. to 25 per cent. of their salaries during the three summer months of this year. The prospects of the coming year are better, moreover, owing to the excellent harvest in Indian corn. The famine of last year, which necessitated an appeal to the League for help and proved a severe burden on the Government, is not likely to be repeated this winter, in spite of the fears still entertained in some quarters.

Foreign Advisers.

The British Adviser to the Ministry of the Interior, Col. Stirling, has been retained by the Nationalist Government; so has also the Italian Adviser to the Ministry of Justice. An Hungarian expert agriculturist has been secured to take charge of the agricultural school at Lushnia. The services of foreign advisers has otherwise been dispensed with at present.

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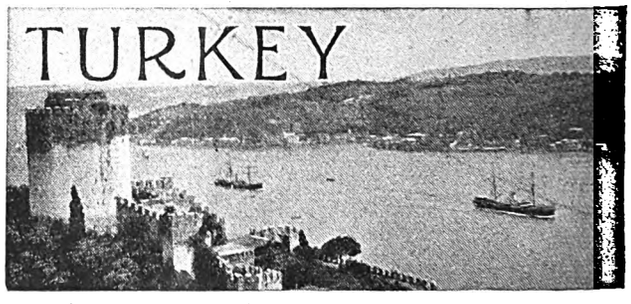

Constantinople, October 28.

The Assembly.

The Assembly has met and the Premier has faced the critical eyes of the People's Party in semi-secret session. Nothing has yet happened. In talking to the People's Party, Ismet Pasha preferred all the old shibboleths about the state of agriculture as the staple industry of the country, about the reduction of brigandage, about the satisfactory and improving condition of the relations of the State with foreign Powers, and so on, and all the members of the party said, "Behold, it is good," and went home to tea. It was the most perfect example of the King's Speech that it is possible to compose, and nobody is any the wiser. Another meeting of the party is due in a few days, and it is understood that things are bound to warm up at this meeting, but the fact is that the feeling about the British Mosul ultimatum has knit the factions so closely together that nobody is sufficiently bold to do more than press for the abolition

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of the Ministry of Reconstruction and Exchange. It now looks as if even the Minister of Public Instruction would survive.

Exchange of Populations.

The local excitement on the exchange of populations question has somewhat calmed down. A large number of the Constantinople Greeks who were unceremoniously swept by the police into the concentration camp at Baloukli have found it so uncomfortable that they have taken the first available steamer off to Greece. The Commission has been doing its best to sort out the internees and provide them with the necessary papers to enable them to go or stay, according to their deserts. There have been much inconvenience, cruelty, and confusion, but the Mixed Commission has maintained a detached diplomatic calm and official good relations among themselves, although M. Exindaris, the chief Greek delegate, has gone off to Athens, presumably with the object of reporting all the disgraceful incidents of the past fortnight and trying to get something "done about it."

The Alleged Armenian Conspiracy.

For the past few days another Christian community in Turkey has been thrown into a state of uneasiness on account of voluminous Press reports concerning an alleged conspiracy formed on Greek soil by the so-called "Armenian Committees" to assassinate the President of the Turkish Republic. The journalists have reproduced circumstantial stories concerning the arrest and confessions of an Armenian who appears to have been roaming about between Constantinople and Eskisgehir, and one of a party of six Armenians sent to murder Mustapha Kemal. The police have been consistently and futilely denying the existence of any such *affaire*, but have been finally forced to admit that such a case is being investigated, and that such an individual is under lock and key. The leader-writers of the Stamboul papers have gone up in the air at once, and warned the Armenians of the terrible consequences of a recrudescence of the activities of the terrible Armenian Committees, and there is uneasiness all round. Some people see in this Press campaign the beginnings of an attempt to exterminate or deport the Armenian Christians in order to keep this territory as an unalloyed preserve for Moslems. It is improbable that such is the case, especially as the authorities appear to have carefully avoided lending any encouragement to the hysteria of the local journalist.

The Mosul Crisis.

The Mosul crisis has calmed down for the moment pending the examination of the matter by the Council of the League of Nations yesterday. The Turks have gained their immediate point—namely, to get the dispute referred to the League of Nations in order not to be forced to yield to the British; they appear to be confident that the League will find an innocuous formula which will more or less displease everybody, and then everybody will be satisfied for the time being, except, perhaps, the Nestorians.

A Turkish Sociologist.

The death of Zia Gueuk Alp Bey on Saturday last deprives Turkey of a notable, clever man, and a patriot. He had attained a considerable reputation in the Orient as a sociologist who was a fervent propagandist for the idea of the Union of the Turanian peoples, of whom the Turks were to be the natural leaders. During and since the Great War he had put his scientific knowledge at the disposal of the Government for the organisation of the so-called *Foyers turcs*, which were to foster the development of a special Turkish and Turanian civilisation, naturally in opposition to the Aryan civilisation of the Occident, and to bind the Asiatic races together in an indissoluble intellectual union. Since the institution of the Republic he has been a prophet crying in the wilderness, for the Turk has been shamelessly devoting all his energies to copying from the West, and the *Foyers turcs* have fallen on evil days financially and in every other respect. Now that Zia Bey is dead, the obituary notices have been most flattering, the telegrams of condolence have been most tactfully and generously worded, and the official obsequies last Sunday were most grandiose.

PERSIA.

October 3.

Persian Olympic Games.

The Military Officers' Sports Club are this year ambitiously organising a series of "Olympic Games," open to Persians and foreigners alike, and their endeavour to imbue a sporting spirit in the youth of the country and encourage manly games and contests is much to be commended, and deserves general support. The swimming competitions, the first on the list, took place last Friday in the large open-air "tank" in the garden of Jemshidabad outside the town, and the four events were all won easily by Germans, some of the numerous colony which has sprung up here during the last two years, and is steadily increasing. The inaccessibility of the sea to the majority of Persians, and the total absence of swimming-baths, make the latter anything but a race of swimmers, and, indeed, a good native swimmer is a rare exception, so in these contests the Persians did not stand much chance of competing successfully with the superior prowess of the Germans. The other contests, which include tennis, football, jumping, flat-racing, boxing, fencing, and so on, will take place in the course of the next two or three weeks, finishing up with the usual autumn race meeting, lasting this year three days.

The Imbrie Murder.

A few days ago the first execution in connection with the recent outrage in which the American Consul was brutally murdered took place, a young non-commissioned officer in the Transport Service being shot, after being convicted of complicity in the attack. The American Legation is still pursuing the matter relentlessly, and it is understood that several more executions are likely to take place shortly. The amount of the indemnity to be paid to Mrs. Imbrie has been fixed at 60,000 dollars, and this amount has accordingly

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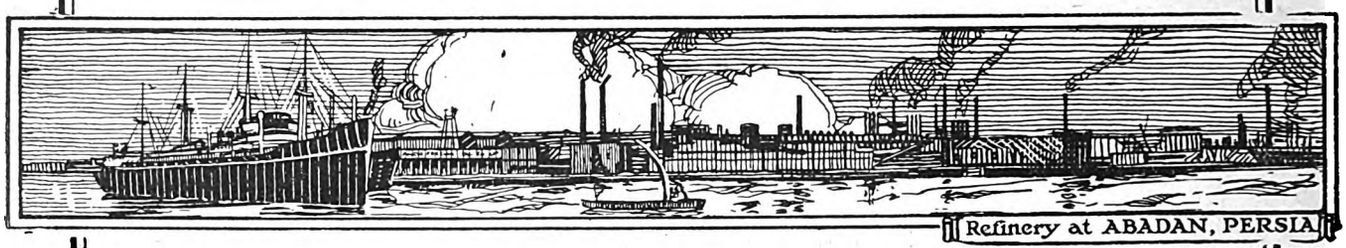

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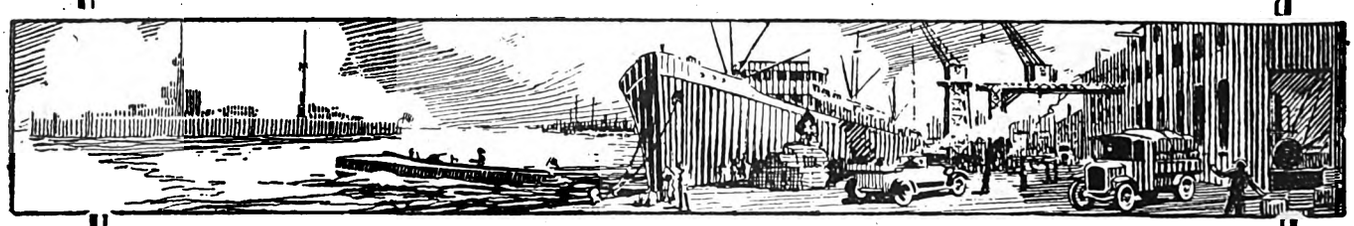

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been placed by the Persian Government at her disposal through the American Legation.

General News.

The new Italian Minister, Signor Galli, arrived here a week ago, and presented his credentials to the Crown Prince last Wednesday.

Dr. Millspaugh, the Administrator-General of the Finances, left for Ispahan a few days ago, on a short visit of inspection. His seventh quarterly report, which has just been published, is not very favourably received in the local Press, which finds in his complaints of opposition from the Cabinet and the Mejliss and lack of assistance to him in his work, an excuse for his not too successful quarter's working, and an attempt to shift the responsibility for this on to the shoulders of the Parliament and the Government.

The paper *Iran*, in a leading article, rails at those responsible for the breakdown of negotiations in connection with the loan of ten million dollars dependent on the granting of the Northern Oil Concession to the Sinclair Company. The latter's representative recently left the country to endeavour to float the loan, and has now had to wire the Persian Government, in reply to their inquiry, that he has not been successful. The question of this concession would, therefore, appear to be definitely shelved for the present.

THE FRENCH IN SYRIA.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

The occasion of Moulad Annabi, i.e., Birthday of the Prophet, was observed by the whole town of Beyrout as a holiday. General Weygand went to the Mosque of Sayed Yehya, i.e., St. John, with a detachment of Algerian Spahis. There were also present the Governor of Great Lebanon with a detachment of mounted troops, many Christians, and a few of the Maronite clergy.

General Weygand made a speech which was well received. Further, he gave about 3,000 francs to the poor, and also handed the Imperial College to the Moslems for their sole use. The Lebanon Governor also gave 1,000 francs to the the poor.

While it is a pleasure to record this, one regrets to find in the *Echo* of Beyrout of September 11 a severe indictment of the British-Arabian policy, signed with the initial "Sh." This may mean "Shawish," the notorious Anglophobe! Such an article was hardly expected from a Syrian paper.

THE BOMBAY ART REVIVAL.

Captain Gladstone Solomon, Director of the Bombay School of Art, lectured on October 23 before the India Society on the work of his school. After describing the beauty of that "Second City of the Empire," he declared that the leadership of art on that side of India was Bombay's natural function, and the School of Art was the centre of the movement. The system of tuition followed in the School of Art had its source in that of the Royal Academy; there was also the class of mural painting, which, when founded, had no Western analogy.

Speaking of the life class, he pointed out that the study of form was not "de-orientalising the students," but was placing in their way facilities for acquiring knowledge. It was the lack of these facilities for training which had led to the partial stagnation of Indian art. The old Indian painters had founded their beautiful work upon Nature.

How could they in England help these deserving artists? The existence of such a learned society as the India Society was in itself a recognition of the importance of this question and an encouragement to Indian artists; but recently Sir George Lloyd had answered that question at the Wembley Conference on Indian Art, held under the auspices of the India Society, in his own way. "The more excellent way," he almost said the *only* way. The proposals of that distinguished champion of Indian artists were that the students should be employed upon the mural paintings for the new buildings at Delhi, working under their own masters, and that a central institution should be founded there—a "Villa Medici"—for the selected students from the Indian Art Schools all over India. This meant a measure of Government patronage for Indian art which had seemed to sound an alarm in some quarters.

The meaning of Sir George Lloyd's proposals was the rescuing of Indian art from her niche in the *museum* and the restoring of her to the *studio* with palette and brush in her hands. That was the aim and end of all their efforts in Bombay, where he hoped that Sir Leslie Wilson would continue to receive the warm support of the public in his zealous work on behalf of Indian art.

In moving a vote of thanks to the lecturer, Sir Herbert Holmwood said: "There is also another reason why we owe a debt of gratitude to the lecturer, for I understand that he is about to start for Paris, on his way back to India, and that while in that city he will give a lecture on the Indian Modern Art movement before that very distinguished society the *Association Française des Amis de l'Orient*, with which we are on terms of great friendship. I feel it is most important that our French friends should also learn what is going on in art circles in India, and what is being done to encourage the young Indian artist."

THE ANCIENT WORLD AND RECENT EXCAVATIONS.

A course of lectures on the comparative archæology of the ancient world will be given by Claire Gaudet at the British Museum (by kind permission of the trustees) on Thursday afternoons, beginning November 6, at 4.30 p.m., and also an evening course at the Chelsea Polytechnic on Fridays, beginning November 7, at 8 p.m. The object is to link together the more important archæological discoveries of recent years in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Mediterranean. The subject will be treated contemporaneously as nearly as possible, comparing the civilisations and architectural forms as they travelled and evolved westward.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

RAILWAYS IN EGYPT.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—May I crave the hospitality of your columns to correct a statement appearing in your number of to-day, which, if allowed to pass without comment, would convey a false impression as to the present state of efficiency of the Egyptian State Railways? Your Cairo Correspondent says: "For more than five years now no renewal work has been carried out, and the condition of the service has deteriorated very considerably."

As a matter of fact, very large sums have been spent under this heading since 1919. For example, when the present order for thirty tank locomotives has been completed, approximately one-sixth of the total stock of engines on the books of the E.S.R. will have been replaced, as follows:—1920-21, 30 express passenger, 20 heavy goods; 1922-23, 20 tank engines; 1923-24, 30 tank engines. Total, 100 engines out of a total stock of just over 600.

Over thirty new first-class coaches will have been turned out at Boulac shops, besides heavy renewals, practically amounting to rebuilding of a considerable number of existing coaching stock.

Some hundreds of goods wagons, tank wagons, etc., have been added since 1919.

So far as the permanent way is concerned, if my memory serves me aright, it will be found that the normal rate of renewal—viz., 80 kilometres of main line track—has been more than maintained.

The new double line bridge at Embaba is almost complete, and the replacement of the Nile bridge at Dessouk is in hand. The programme of bridge renewals has, in fact, never suffered serious check.

If the present state of the permanent way is such as to call for the immediate expenditure of large sums of money, this is due to the enforced parsimony of the latter decades of the last century, from which the Egyptian State Railways have never recovered, and if the rolling stock is in a bad way the reason lies in political considerations.

The Egyptian Government is getting rid of the experienced European supervisors before their Egyptian pupils have been sufficiently trained. The latter are clever, without doubt, but lack initiative and thoroughness, qualities which can only be acquired by long and patient education. In the meantime maintenance suffers.—I am, etc.,

R. B. D. Blakeney.

(Formerly General Manager, Egyptian State Railways.)

The Athenæum, October 30.

THE EMIRATE OF MECCA.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—The reported appointment by Ibn Saoud of the Shereef Ali Haider Pasha to the throne of Mecca is one which should give profound satisfaction both in this country and in Arabia. During the winter of 1920-21 you were kind enough to allow me to make use of your columns to set forth the reasons why Ali Haider's claims to the throne of Iraq should be considered, and I would esteem it a great favour if you would allow me once again to trespass upon your space and explain why his appointment to Mecca should be regarded in a favourable light.

The Shereef Ali Haider is no reckless gambler with his own destiny, or with those of people over whom he has control, for his career shows him to be a man who not only values peace and security, but who also possesses great qualities of statesmanship. When the Turks appointed him Shereef of Mecca in 1915 he never attempted to use the forces at his disposal against the Allies, and thereby incurred the displeasure of the Turkish authorities. His activities during this period consisted in relieving the lot of the unhappy Syrians, and it was then also that he established friendly relations with Ibn Saoud and Ibn Raschid.

The Shereef's sympathies have always been with Great Britain, for whose culture he has great admiration. All his sons, who speak English fluently, have been educated at an English school, and one son has recently completed three years at St. Andrews University. I should like to call attention to a letter which appeared in your issue of August 14 last recording the musical achievements of another son in the United States.

With Shereef Ali Haider in Mecca we need never fear for the boundaries of Transjordan, while his friendly relationship with Ibn Saoud would make Iraq more secure from any hostile incursions. If the dream of a United Arabia is dead the vision of a peaceful association of Arabian peoples would arise with the advent of Ali Haider, the head living representative of the House of the Prophet, to the throne of the Hejaz.—I am, etc.,

"Champion."

[Reference was made to the report of Shereef Ali Haider's appointment in our "Notes of the Week" of October 30.—Ed.]

THE YUGOSLAV MINISTER.

We much regret to have to record the death of Dr. Michael Gavrilovitch, Minister since 1920 of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. His end came with unexpected suddenness, as the result of heart failure consequent upon influenza.

His success as representative of Yugoslavia in London has been acknowledged on all sides. His scholarliness, which was of such extent as to earn him a Continental reputation, stood him in the most excellent stead when the passionate claims of his country had to be preferred, and it gave him a wise and comprehensive grasp of essentials when internal discussions in Yugoslavia would have prompted a lesser man to take sides. Personal sufferings in the various wars in which his country had been recently engaged made him but the more determined to follow the path—if the phrase be applicable to the Balkans—of sweetness and light; and the fact that Yugoslavia stands in British esteem where it does to-day must be attributed largely to his tireless and persuasive representations.

Before his appointment to London Dr. Gavrilovitch had been for the greater part of his life a scholar, particularly an historian. It was not until he was forty that he turned diplomatist, becoming Serbian Minister to the Holy See, and Minister to Montenegro. He was born in 1869 at Alexinatz, in Central Serbia.

The Roumanian Government has endowed a lecturership at King's College in Central European History (with especial reference to Roumania and the Near East), and a part-time lecturership in Roumanian Language and Literature, both tenable for three years. Mr. H. Wickham Steed has been appointed by the Delegacy to the former and M. M. Beza to the latter.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

November 6, 1924 (New Style).
November 24, 1924 (Old Style).
Rabia 'II, 8, 1343 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Marheshvan 9, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Bulgarian Minister left London on October 31 for Paris.

Sir John and Lady Stavridi left London on October 29 for Algiers.

The Countess of Shannon has given birth to a son at Ootacamund, Madras.

Lady Emily Lutyens left London on October 28 for Venice, *en route* to India.

Prince and Princess Nicolas of Greece left London last Thursday for Paris.

Sir Dhunjibhoy and Lady Bomanji last week left the Ritz Hotel, London, for Paris.

M. Nicolas Youlovitch has been appointed Secretary at the Yugoslav Legation in London.

Sir Percy Loraine, British Minister to Persia, and Lady Loraine, have left London for Teheran.

M. Slavko Koitch, Secretary at the Yugoslav Legation, left London last Friday for Paris on leave.

Rosamond Viscountess Ridley and the Hon. Vivien Ridley left London on October 31 for India.

Viscount and Viscountess Milner sailed last Friday in the Walmer Castle for South Africa. They expect to be away about four months.

Viscount and Viscountess Portman sailed last Friday in the Kaisar-i-Hind for Marseilles. They have taken a villa at Cannes, and are going later to Egypt.

Mr. Peter Augustus Jay, United States Minister at Bucharest, and his family arrived on October 31 at Cherbourg in the U.S. liner Leviathan from New York.

Prince and Princess Danilo of Montenegro arrived last week at the Hotel de Paris, Monte Carlo. Their villa at Cap Martin has been purchased by Sir Pomeroy Burton.

Lord Rawlinson, Commander-in-Chief in India, accompanied by Major J. R. C. Gannon and Major L. M. Gibbs, leaves London to-day by the P. and O. Special for India *via* Marseilles.

Among the passengers who sailed from London last Friday in the Kaisar-i-Hind were Sir Francis and Lady Dent and Lady Arundell of Wardour for Gibraltar; and Sir Stanley and Lady Reid, Sir Henry and Lady Macnaghten, and Lady Marten for Bombay.

Major-General Sir Charles Benjamin Knowles, K.C.B., of Eastfields, Camberley, Surrey, a Crimean veteran who also saw service in the Afghan War, 1878-80, and in Egypt, and colonel of Hampshire Regiment, who died on July 29, aged 88, left unsettled property in his own disposition of the gross value of £15,494, with net personalty £14,824.

The King has given Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Ronald Dockray Waterhouse, K.C.B., C.M.G., C.V.O., authority to wear the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Coroana Romaniei, conferred on him by the King of Roumania.

Mr. St. John Philby was reported on November 3 to have arrived at Jeddah. He is in the Hejaz on an unofficial mission, the purpose of which is to bring about an amicable arrangement between King Ali and Ibn Saoud of Nejd.

Captain Hamdi Bey, Deputy for Constantinople in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, who had been visiting London in connection with purchasing steamers for the Turkish Steam Navigation Company, left Victoria on October 29 for Angora.

The King has given authority to Mr. Arthur Ferguson MacCallan, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.S., formerly Director of Ophthalmic Hospitals, Egyptian Department of Public Health, to wear the insignia of the Order of the Nile, Second Class.

In celebration of the first anniversary of the Turkish Republic, the Turkish Minister in London, on October 29, held a reception at the Legation, at which were present members of the Turkish colony. During the evening the Minister sent a congratulatory message to Mustapha Kemal, the President.

By command of the King, the Earl of Cromer (Lord Chamberlain) called at the Legation of the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes on November 3 to convey His Majesty's condolences upon the death of His Excellency M. Michael Gavrilovitch (Envoy-Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes).

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The following Consular appointments are notified in the *London Gazette*:—

Mr. Cecil Allan Walter Were, Vice-Consul at Marrakesh.

Mr. Gerald Holgate Selous, M.B.E., Consul for the Towns and Provinces of South-West Morocco, extending northwards to and including the Chaouia and the territory of Tadla.

Major James Hugh Hamilton Dodds, C.M.G., Consul for Tripoli.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1924.

ANGLO-FRENCH CO-OPERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

During the past week the League of Nations at Geneva has listened, among other things, to reports upon the present situation in Palestine and in Syria and the Lebanon respectively. Those accounts have, on the whole, been satisfactory. The position in both the mandated territories is now practically devoid of internal danger; military garrisons have been reduced; and the attempt to inculcate the senses of British and of French justice seems to have met with a certain, if slow, success. So far as is reported from Geneva, there appear to have been no confessed shortcomings on the part of the administrators in these countries, and one would not be unjustified in assuming that all is well from Alexandretta to Akaba. This, however, would be but a superficial view. It is true that the political situation in both countries—we should, perhaps, say in the whole country—has gratifyingly eased, but the main factor of the whole problem—the economic factor—is still far from good. Reports still abound of commercial stagnation and depression in both Syria and Palestine, and they will, it must be feared, so abound until a wider view of the question is entertained. Economic discontent, of course, breeds political agitation; and political agitation, unlike the goods of commerce, does not stop short at political boundaries. In this way both Syria and Palestine have continually to be looking North, South, and East: to the West they gaze, respectively, with but a sigh at the Customs duties and at the lack of harbours. It is in the main, we repeat, a common ill from which Syria and Palestine are suffering. True, the policy and the ambition of the mandatory Powers are different, but there is still ample room for economic co-ordination. Whatever the ultimate intentions of the Mandatory Powers in Palestine and Syria may be, they can be achieved on one foundation only—the economic prosperity and content of the people.

Let us for a moment look particularly at two of the Arab "Trinity" States which the Western Powers formed out of one. The behaviour of these two unruly children of Allied conception, Palestine and Syria, said the mandatories before the League, is now really improving; parental authority is being complemented by filial devotion. But is that satisfactory statement shared at all widely by any but the mandatories themselves? Is there any considerable body of Continental opinion which is, for example, now persuaded that the Zionist experiment can be a success, or that France has acted in Syria in accordance with the spirit of the famous Anglo-French Declaration of 1918? We fear not. Let us turn, however, from these questions, which have been prompted by events in which the mandatories were in large part forced to partake by the exigencies of circumstances, and look from a doubtful past to the more hopeful future. The rivalry which showed up so badly in the past between Palestine and Syria, or, rather, between the officials in those countries, is now dying down, even though the tendency of France to regard any sign of brigandage which had its source in Transjordan as the work of the British, and of Britain to regard Turkish intentions upon Iraq as winked at by France, still obtains a futile currency. In Palestine the relations between Arabs and the British are becoming more cordial—British sympathy with the Arab *fellah* could not make things otherwise—and with the politically minded Palestinian Arab now in active and optimistic collaboration but with his brothers in Syria—his support in the Hejaz having apparently been suspended—there is good reason to suppose that he will become more tractable, or, as we should better say, more creative. In Syria, as in Palestine, the economic problem is still acute, but it is undoubtedly improving. There, in fact, the situation is far more promising in many ways than it is in Palestine, where the delay in raising the Government Loan has held back almost everything. It is true, incidentally, that the Loan is opposed by certain Palestinian merchants, but it is obvious at any rate that without harbours the Holy Land can never gain an adequate prosperity.

The time seems to us peculiarly ripe for a reconsideration of this whole problem of the Middle East. M. Herriot has repeatedly made expressions of goodwill towards Britain in the Middle East, and it is now for the actual exponents and agents of the Allied policies in the Middle Eastern countries to get together and form a concerted plan to ensure the common prosperity of their respective charges. France surely need fear no more our Arabian policy, for she must see clearly enough that if Iraq, for instance, or Trans-jordan are to stand, they must stand on their own feet, and not in virtue of the fact that their rulers are there because they are the sons of an abdicated monarch. There is little cause to suppose, indeed, that the French have, after Meisalun, feared the Arabs. Nor have they any reason to suppose that Britain would at any time work with the Arabs as against Syria. What Britain's eye, in these regions, is chiefly upon is Turkey, the Turkey with which, although she has recently been successful in regulating the difficult issue of her religious schools, France is still at variance on more than one point: the Turkey which, in spite of professions to the contrary, is in many quarters assumed still to have designs upon Alexandretta and Aleppo; and, finally, the Turkey which, if real trouble were to arise with Iraq, would have to run its troops along the Baghdad railway, which passes through French-administered territory. It would be foolish and quite unjustifiable to make a bogey of Turkey's possible intentions to recover any of its lost provinces, but it is patent that it alone could cause serious trouble in these parts. The reason that its threats have so closely to be considered is due almost entirely to the fact that Britain and France have not since the War attained to a really working arrangement, for the more this country courted or ingratiated the Arabs, the more France turned against them and towards Turkey. If the new Government in Great Britain were to attack this vital problem, and to lay themselves out to secure French co-operation in the defence and fiscal systems of the countries which are under Allied supervision, a great and essential step would have been taken. Past history may be left to take care of itself: if old sores were raised, the withered arm of the Middle East would never be healed. There is, finally, no need to wait for the delimitation of the Iraq frontier next year: a word from London and Paris would ensure immediate benefit.

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Near East Bookshelf.

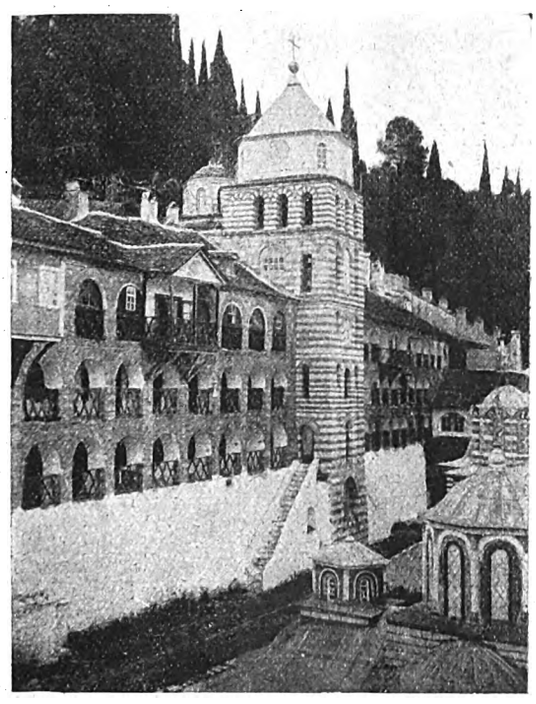
THE HOLY MOUNTAIN OF ATHOS.

"ATHOS AND ITS MONASTERIES." By the late F. W. Hasluck. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

I suppose that the names of few places in the world call up more sense of mystery than that of Mount Athos, the holy peninsula on the Macedonian coast, peopled entirely by monks and other holy men and their dependents, within the confines of which no woman nor even any female animal may enter. Most of us have had our own imaginations of it since childhood, and but few of us have ever seen the actual place or are likely ever to see it. What we have read concerning it has mostly been of a very scrappy and inaccurate nature, and it was high time that a book should be published in English summarising the researches made from time to time by scholars of various nationalities into its history, giving the results of personal studies on the spot, and making more easy the way of future visitors.

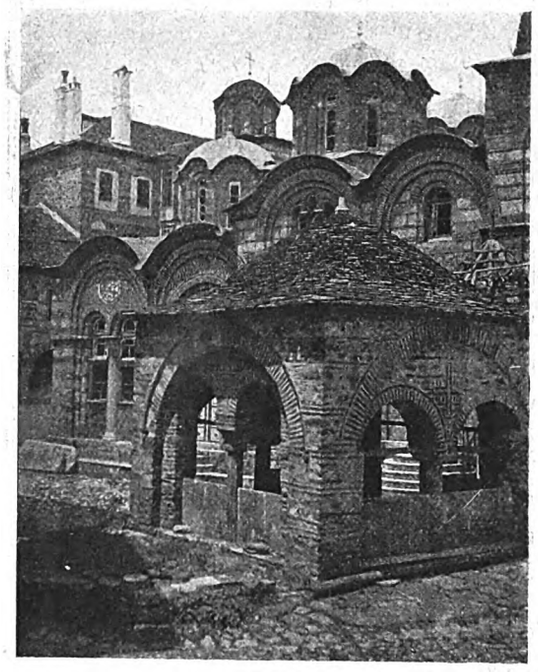
Mr. F. W. Hasluck, who had spent much of his precarious life in the study of ancient civilisation in the Levant, and had been for some years Librarian and Assistant-Director of the British School of Athos, felt that need, and had by 1912 written the book now before us. He kept it back in order to revise it in the light of events following on the Balkan War. But the great European War followed too closely. His state of health made it impossible for him to join the Army, so he devoted himself entirely to laborious and very useful work in the Intelligence Bureau of our Athens Legation till consumption took such a hold on him that he had to leave for Switzerland to die. The book has been brought out by his widow, herself a scholar, but it has to be borne in mind that it is twelve years old and that it suffers from the loss of his finishing work on it. By this I do not mean in any way to depreciate the book, which is an excellent one in all respects, full of ripe scholarship, careful research and the observation of the skilled student.

From the moment you land at the little port of Daphne, you are in a very old world, unlike any world that exists now elsewhere or, indeed, ever existed, with queer anachronisms such as passports and picture postcards to remind you that there is another world outside. The lovely scenery, the monastic seclusion, the ancient ways, the old-world hospitality, the air of suppression of everything except worship, and the utter absence of modernism are with you constantly till your departure to our own work-a-day world.



ZOGRAPHOU: CLOCK TOWER.

It was, I must confess, a shock to me to find that there is no historical covenant of early religious settlement in the Mount before the middle of the ninth century. However, that is quite a long time ago, and in two or three centuries there was clearly a considerable monastic community there. Very few of the existing monasteries were founded after the twelfth century. But again I was disappointed. Attacks in war, piratical raids, and fires have destroyed very much, so that comparatively little of the very ancient buildings is left. However, here again we may take comfort. Quite enough has been left to show us what these beautiful buildings were like, and their successors are intensely picturesque and well suited to their surroundings. I fear that my dreams of rich ancient stores of books must go the way of other delusions. Mr. Hasluck nowhere speaks of the contents of the libraries of the monasteries, and his account of the primitive kitchen fire leads us to suppose that nothing so inflammable as manuscripts was likely to last there very long.



CHILANDHARI: CHURCH.

Mr. Hasluck takes us through the history of the Mount from century to century, chronicling its internal events and development of its government and administration. He gives us glimpses of the occasions when its inhabitants were perforce brought into collision, generally disagreeable, with the outside world. He tells us of their origin, their prosperity, their bad times, the growth and waning of their population, and he leaves them still under the mild rule of the Turks. He points out how like the administration of Athos is to that of our own older Universities. Indeed, he points out that the very "word *Koinotes*, not the modern barbarism *Panepistemiom*, is obviously the Greek equivalent of 'University,' and the Central Council coincides aptly enough with the University Senate with its extra-territoriality and separate police powers. The twenty sovereign monasteries represent the Colleges, the *Skctai*, the Halls, and the cells the groups of out-college men. The

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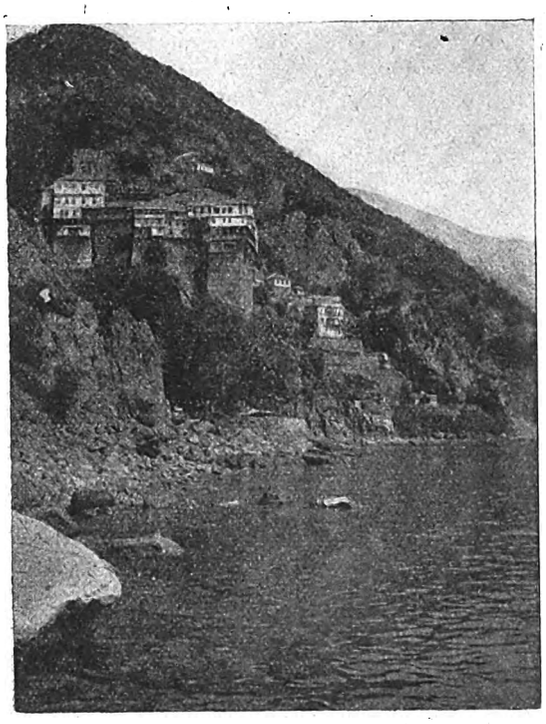
grouping of juniors and seniors in the idioryythmic houses and cells recalls our mediæval association



DIONYSIOU.

of undergraduates with Masters of Arts, while the endowment of elderly members corresponds to the old system of college livings. Curiously, also, smoking in the courts is forbidden!"

The second part of the book is more of the nature of a guide-book to the twenty monasteries still existing. Each in turn is treated from the historical and architectural point of view.

The whole work has its value greatly enhanced by 40 or 50 excellent illustrations, some being reproductions of old prints, others more natural reproductions of what must have been very beautiful water-colour sketches by the author, while others are photographs by the author. Of the last we are, by the courtesy of the publishers, able to show our readers some specimens.

A bibliography, a glossary, and an adequate index complete the work. The only fault I can find with this book is that its method of production, i.e., size of page, weight of paper, etc., will militate against its usefulness as a guide-book to visitors to Athos. The transposition of the titles of the two photographs on Pl. 15 is clearly due to a printer's oversight. C. S.-W.

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THE EX-KHEDIVE AND EGYPT.

The following article, written by a well-known Zaghloulist Egyptian, is extracted from a recent issue of *Le Soleil*, a Marseilles paper:—

The ex-Khedive Abbas Hilmy II. has recently published a strange statement on the Turkish Bank of Commerce and Industry, on the political reorganisation of Turkey and the recognition of its old debts, on the building of barrages in Upper Egypt, on events in the Sudan, on the Egyptian question, on the attempted assassination of Zaghloul Pasha, on the culture of Egypt and the track of the line from Mariout, on the independence of Egypt, on his future, and so on.

If one is to believe him, Egypt, "always a Turkish subject," still belongs to the Ottoman Republic, since his statement ends with a long litany of the ills which must befall her now that he has left her soil.

It is not difficult to understand the sorrow of this ambitious and evicted farmer, who to-day sees Egypt claiming complete independence—and doubtless obtaining it—when the intrigues of this experienced plotter envisaged (as witness his negotiations with Bolo and his fellows) her liberation from Great Britain only that she might be thrown under the heel of Germany. That is perhaps what he means by "working for more than twenty years to lead the country towards progress."

He deceives first one side, then the other. After having lied to England and to Egypt, he is lying to-day at Geneva, just as to-morrow he will lie at Angora. And this is what he calls service in the cause of independence and of justice!

Who is willing to believe that he, out of his own pocket, constructed the 200 kilometres of railway track from Mariout? Does he not remember that the necessary materials had been taken by the Railway Administration, which had to give them to him at a quarter of their real value, and that the manual labour was provided exclusively by the guard, soldiers, and officers? And when the track was laid and the stations were built, was it not the opportune intervention of Lord Kitchener which alone prevented the selling of the whole thing to a foreign company at a high price? Has he so quickly forgotten his depredations on the revenue of the Wakfs, which he wrongfully appropriated to himself? And the title of farmer which he claims, and the love of the fellah which he professes—do these comprise the rent deeds which the cult of decorations brought him (decorations of which he had the monopoly) and the blows with which he crushed the fellah? Certainly he loves the land and the fellah; but he forgets to say that it was often the land of others, and that if he loves the fellah, the fellah certainly never loved him.

"I considered," he said, "that I could but withdraw from the struggle the unfortunate consequences of which could be foreseen; since that time I have had to content myself with being a patriotic spectator of events as they unrolled themselves."

It was probably to gain a better view of these events which so ravaged his tender heart that the ex-Khedive, not being able to visit London, which refused to see him, sojourned in Paris, in Italy (notably Rome), in Belgium (where he changed his name), and in Constantinople, where his inexhaustible activity was concentrated on keeping quiet the voice of Captain Recke, which was reaching his ears from Berlin. It was to gain a better view of these events that, without paying them, he harried the German sailors out of his yacht, and that he sent secret agents to Egypt.

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EGYPT UNDER THE TURKS AND BEYS, 1517-1811. *

By F. W. BUCKLER.

(*Continued from page* 430.)

This last act produced a reaction. Ibrahim Bey, the Circassian, had almost as much influence as Ali Bey and his followers, and he had to flee the country, first to Jerusalem and then to Acre. The reason for his departure from Jerusalem was the fact that the governor was a Turk, and Ali Bey had learnt that a messenger was on his way from Constantinople to Jerusalem, armed with orders to take off the head of Ali Bey. As the orders were addressed to the Governor of Jerusalem, they did not affect the Governor of Acre, and Ali was well aware that a reaction in his favour was taking place in Egypt. If it were his destiny to elude the fate-bearing decree of the Sultan, then he would be spared to take advantage of that reaction—and even so it was. The Sheikh Dahar proved to be a very real friend; gave the sound advice of patience and resignation which every Muslim gives in hours of distress, and, as Saadi says, "The fruits of resignation are sweet." The fruits in this case consisted in the surprise return of Ali Bey to Cairo, the execution of the four ringleaders of the opposition; the ejection of all the nominees of the Porte from the ranks of the Beys, and in their place Ali Bey appointed eighteen of his own followers. His position now seemed secure. But the sound rule in all Eastern courts is, "Let him that thinketh he standeth beware lest he fall."

It was not at all likely that the Porte would acquiesce mildly in the annihilation of his influence in Cairo. He could afford to wait. In 1768 war broke out between Turkey and Russia, and Egypt was ordered to provide its draft of 12,000 men, which Ali Bey began to raise. But the doubt arose as to the objective against which they would be directed, and orders were sent to the Pasha to put Ali Bey to death. Ali Bey had his agents at Constantinople, and the news arrived before the fate-decreeing *firman*, so that Ali Bey was able to defeat the plot. He sent a trusted friend with sufficient forces to waylay the unfortunate messenger, who was slain with his following and buried in the sand about twenty miles from Cairo. Armed with the *firman*, Ali Bey was able to use it with effect against the Ottoman. He assembled the Beys, whom he addressed with considerable vigour on the subject of Ottoman tyranny, proposed independence and alliance with Russia. He carried with him the majority of the Beys, expelled the Pasha, and struck coin in his own name.

An interesting tale is told by Volney of the attempt to discredit this coinage after the fall of Ali Bey. It was alleged that his silver piastres were debased to the extent of 20 per cent. But a merchant sent 10,000 of them—purchased at this rate—to Marseilles and made a handsome profit.

The Turk was not likely to submit to this final action, and a constant stream of executioners bearing *firmans* made their way to Cairo, which they never reached, thanks to the mediatorial influence of poison and daggers. Ali Bey set out to secure his position. He was assured of the support of the Governor of Acre, his old friend, and to reduce Syria he dispatched his son-in-law, Abu'l-Dhahat, the "father of gold," so called, according to one version, because he gave alms only in gold pieces: according to another version, because he "fathered his gold." Now in sending Abu'l-Dhahat Ali Bey made his greatest mistake. He felt sure of the fidelity of his son-in-law, and would listen to nothing against him, although there were well-authenticated accounts of attempts made on his life by this favourite.

Abu'l-Dhahat had already entered into an arrangement with the Porte for the reversion of Ali Bey's possessions, and after a successful campaign in Syria he suddenly turned back, marched to the Upper Nile, seized Asiout, and took Cairo in the rear. Ali Bey escaped, reconquered Syria, and left garrisons in the forts, thereby weakening his forces, so that in 1772, when he turned towards Egypt, he had only a diminished force with which to face Abu'l-Dhahat; he was defeated, and wounded so severely that he was taken prisoner. He was received with overwhelming kindness by the victor, who took him to his own house to die of his wounds—some say with the help of the poison of Abu'l-Dhahat, who succeeded him, but only for two years, at the end of which he died, probably of apoplexy, for he was a hardened drunkard.

There is something to be said for Ali Bey—Egyptian chroniclers accord him the title of "the Great"—and it must be admitted that he handled the Mamluk position well. He was foolish perhaps in his trust of mankind, particularly of those who were in a position to become rivals. He attempted to reduce extortion with some success—as the mythology which grew around his name shows. But he is the justification alike of Salim the Grim's experiment to retain Egypt in vassaldom—for Ali Bey was overthrown by a rival Mamluk faction—and of Mohammed Ali's remedy—the slaughter of the Mamluks. He realised alike the importance of Syria and the potential value of European support—though in this he was badly served by Russia and Venice. His campaigns, however, tended to defeat the measures he took for the alleviation of the taxpayers' sufferings, and his failure gave place to a new period of divided government in which the central authority had ceased to exist.

Between 1772 and 1805, when Mohammed Ali was created Pasha of Egypt, there is little more to be said than that disorder and extortion continued. The tribute to Constantinople was paid with fair regularity, and the Mamluks continued to prosper—for all levies and taxes demanded from them were ultimately passed on to the *fellahin* and shopkeepers. They continued to groan under the burden of oppression, although some attempts were occasionally made to check rapacity.

Then came Napoleon—but of his activities you

* [*The first two instalments of this article appeared in our issues of October* 16 *and* 23.—Ed.]

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have already heard from Professor Holland Rose. His part in the history of Egypt *itself* is practically negligible, except that he changed its outlook from being a pawn in Ottoman Imperialism to being a pawn in Western diplomacy. Napoleon's greatest contribution to Egyptian history was the inspiration he gave to Mohammed Ali.

In the Muslim world as a whole affairs had not gone well. Russia was advancing against Persia and Turkey alternately. The Moghal Empire was challenged by both Haidar Ali and Tipu Sultan, who claimed Qureish descent, and seem to have aimed at establishing themselves in the Khalifate, for Tipu Sultan was in close alliance with all the leading Sunni rulers from Egypt to Afghanistan and Rohilkhand. The Porte denounced him on account of his alliance with the French, but had it not been for the activity of Mahdaji Sindia, who ultimately forced the English to support him, Tipu might have brought his Sunni alliance into very effective operation. It is an aspect of Tipu's activities which is usually neglected by historians of India. In Arabia, too, the Wahhabi movement began to arouse Muslims to the purity of their early faith, and, like all Puritan movements, ended in sedition and rebellion.

But Europe was fully engaged with Napoleonic wars, and this fact enabled the Sultan to dispatch forces to Egypt to restore order in 1801. Among the junior officers was a young tobacco merchant and condottière of Kavalla—Mohammed Ali. In 1805 he was appointed *pasha*, and proceeded, by means of bribes or massacres, to rid Egypt of all that stood in his way. First of all went the agents of the Sultan in 1806, then he turned to deal with the Mamluks, but England and France had taken sides on the question. The French supported the young pasha, but they were not supreme. The English supported the Mamluks, who were the cause, as we have seen, of the whole trouble, so Mohammed Ali got rid of the English in the following year. Now his coast was clear. He awaited his opportunity; he was sure of his Albanian troops, and on the eve of his expedition to Arabia he invited all the Mamluks to the citadel, moved off their troops, closed the doors, and his Albanians massacred all save one, who succeeded in escaping. This massacre took place in 1811, and rendered possible the orderly government of Egypt. The next year he established his authority in Arabia, having gained the assent of the Sultan; he suppressed the Wahhabi rebellion and cleared the region of fortified villages. The Albanians became restive, so Mohammed Ali turned to the Arabs, and they officiated for the Albanians as the Albanians had officiated for the Mamluks.

Of his work in Egypt we have the impartial verdict of E. W. Lane, who visited Egypt at this time. It was disappointing. Much was regularised, but monopolies and the heavy taxation which his wars necessitated still ground down the unfortunate *fellahin*. Egyptian population declined, and its wealth once more accumulated in the hands of a minority. Further, Mohammed Ali was no more able than any other Oriental (or Western) conqueror to dispense entirely with the old official classes. He introduced European superintendence extensively, but, like the Ministers of an English Cabinet, they found themselves of necessity limited and controlled by the experience—and perversity!—of the permanent officialdom.

But Lane probably expected too much. Ten centuries of misrule could not be cured in ten years, nor was Mohammed Ali the man to cure it for himself. His object was to create an efficient State and army: his ideas were Napoleonic—and therefore extravagant in the realm of economics. Of his activities in European politics you have heard from others, and so, with the recognition of Mohammed Ali and his family as hereditary Pashas in Egypt in the year 1841, we take our leave of him.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Sir Herbert Samuel left Geneva on November 2 on his return to Palestine.

Mr. Frederick Woodhouse recently gave his second lecture-recital of British songs at Belgrade.

Ezekiel Sassoon Effendi, Iraq Minister of Finance, has been appointed Acting Premier in the temporary absence of the Prime Minister.

In compliance with the demands of the United States Government, the two Persian murderers of Major Imbrie, whose execution had been delayed, were put to death at Teheran on November 2.

In response to an appeal by King Fuad to the Egyptian Red Crescent to succour the suffering inhabitants of the Hejaz, a subscription list has been opened in Cairo. King Fuad himself has subscribed £E1,000.

According to *The Times* Constantinople correspondent, Sidi Ahmed Ibn Mohamed es Sherif, who was Grand Sheikh of the Senussi until his deposition in 1918, and a leading figure in Pan-Islamic circles, left Mersina last week for Mecca.

At Angora on October 26 the meeting of the Popular Party was suspended for five minutes as a mark of respect for Zia Geuk Alp, the protagonist of the doctrines of Yeni Turan and intimate adviser of the late Grand Vizier Talaat Pasha, who died the previous day.

King Boris opened the Bulgarian Sobranye on October 29. In his speech from the Throne he stated that Bulgaria's relations with her neighbours were good, and that the Government was anxious to apply the Minorities Agreement concluded with Greece at Geneva during the recent League of Nations Assembly.

The Prefect of Police at Jassy, Roumania, was shot dead on October 27 by a student, who had already, on several occasions, appeared in the police courts.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Election—and After.

If I contented myself last week with saying merely that the Conservatives were absolutely certain to win seats it must not be thought that the *fait accompli* has left me unduly humble. In my opinion no one could have foreseen what happened, and to have forecasted anything of the kind would have been on a par with supporting the outsider in the Derby. But if the majority is almost of unwieldy dimensions, what really matters is that at last we have a really stable Administration with all that that implies. Already the first-fruits are seen in the general revival of confidence which finds expression in buoyancy on the Stock Exchange and in the improvement of the New York exchange rate. There is absolute conviction that under the Conservative Government there will be a real prospect of an all-round trade expansion, and that whatever can be done to assist a commercial revival will be done, and the confidence that exists is due to the belief that in all probability these efforts will be successful.

The British Empire Exhibition.

The Exhibition has now come to an end without a decision as to its reopening in 1925, but in view of political developments, it may be taken for granted that its continuance is certain. So far it cannot be said that Wembley has been unduly favoured by conditions generally. Almost from the beginning to the end, the weather has been uniformly unfavourable, and it is a matter for surprise not that the attendance has fallen so far below the estimates, but that it has reached the total it has. Day after day there have been prolonged downpours, and those who have visited Wembley under these conditions deserve to be complimented on their courage. If there is anything in the law of averages, next year should be relatively dry, and if the Exhibition contains new attractions, as will undoubtedly be the case, it is reasonable to anticipate that the figures of this year may well be surpassed.

Satisfactory Results.

On the whole, the results of the Exhibition have been distinctly good. It is true that some of the firms represented are not satisfied with the outcome, but they constitute a small section only of the exhibitors, and it is perfectly clear that the value of a great Exhibition lies not in the immediate gain, but in its influence over a long series of years. From the point of view of its effect on the development of economic relations between Great Britain and the other parts of the Empire, Wembley has been an undoubted success. It has been the means of introducing to the British market many new commodities which will henceforth have a permanent place here, to say nothing of enlarging the demand for products which already had an outlet in this country, while its value as a means of illustrating the potentialities of the Empire has been literally beyond praise.

Trade with Yugoslavia.

On another page in this issue will be found details of an organisation which has been established for the development of trade relations between Great Britain and Yugoslavia. The unwillingness of British firms to grant extended credits has hitherto been one of the great handicaps to the extension of British trade with Yugoslavia and in other parts of the Near East, and it is the purpose of the new organisation—the British-Yugoslav Syndicate—to endeavour to provide a solution by guaranteeing credits. It is a promising enterprise, and the organisation should be able to play a useful part in the development of economic relations between the two countries.

Bengal-Dooars Railway.

At the meeting of the Bengal Dooars Railway the Chairman, Mr. Robert Miller, said that the results of the year's working were again satisfactory. With a few exceptions, there was an improvement under all heads, which was to be attributed to a good tea and tobacco season and to an increase in the population of the Dooars. The gross earnings amounted to Rs. 20,53,379, as against Rs. 18,13,192, while the aggregate expenditure was Rs. 10,91,748, as compared with Rs. 8,85,885. The net earnings for the year amounted to Rs. 9,61,631, an increase of Rs. 34,324 on the figures for the previous year. It is anticipated that the earnings for the current year will at least equal those of last year, and this is fully borne out by the traffic figures in recent months. At September 27 the approximate traffic receipts amounted to Rs. 10,09,442, as compared with Rs. 9,37,589 for the corresponding period of the previous year, an improvement of Rs. 71,853.

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

At the meeting of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway the Chairman, Mr. Robert Miller, was able to give a very satisfactory review of the company's progress during the past year. The gross earnings amounted to Rs. 779 lakhs, an advance of Rs. 18 lakhs on the figures of the previous year, which were the highest on record. Mr. Miller pointed out that during the five years ended March, 1924, the gross earnings had increased by nearly Rs. 121.5 lakhs, or 18.45 per cent., while there had been an increase in the mean mileage worked of 63.88 miles, or 2.37 per cent. The gross earnings for the past year would have been considerably larger but for the unprecedented cyclone in November, which practically wrecked a length

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of about 175 miles of the East Coast line. Working expenses during the year increased by Rs. 21½ lakhs, or 4.41 per cent. Dealing with the prospects of the current year, Mr. Miller said that, so far the gross earnings showed a marked improvement on the corresponding figures of the previous year. Up to September 20 the total increase amounted to Rs. 34.25 lakhs. This improvement, he added, has been brought about in large measure by the introduction of up-to-date methods of operating traffic.

COMMENTATOR.

REFUGEES IN GREECE.

We have received the following communication from the Secretary of the Imperial War Relief Fund :—

The recent rise in the world price of flour has compelled the British Relief Societies to reduce the numbers of refugees in Greece who have been fed by them by about 18 per cent. The need, however, among these people continues to increase, as is shown by the following telegrams received during the past ten days from the Chief British Relief Administrator, Dr. W. A. Kennedy :—

"Athens, October 23.

"Owing to overcrowded conditions in Salonika the authorities are refusing to disembark refugees. Severe cold is reported from Western Macedonia. With increasing numbers shelterless, malaria and dysentery are very prevalent. The recent arrivals are practically all women and children, emaciated and miserably clad. Large numbers without ration cards crowd round our kitchens hoping for food. Owing to heavy rains and cold I have been forced to begin distribution of winter clothing in Western Macedonia."

"Athens, October 31.

"Ten thousand refugees arrived in Salonika during October from Pontus. In Salonika alone, apart from scattered refugees, 15,000 are in tents and 45,000 in barracks. The approaching winter prevents further movement of refugees to the interior. I have been compelled to refuse appeal from the Governor of Larissa to commence feeding 1,000 new arrivals. 7,000 recently landed in Volo district."

Donations of money for the relief of these refugees are earnestly solicited, and should be addressed to Sir Maurice Benham Carter, K.C.B., Hon. Treasurer, All-British Appeal, 26, Gordon Street, Gordon Square, W.C.1.

Gifts of clothing, blankets, etc., should be sent to the All-British Appeal, New Hibernia Wharf, London Bridge, S.E.1.

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BY "CARO-KANN."

The following game was played in the British Championship at Southport between Mr. F. D. Yates (White) and Sir G. A. Thomas (Black) :— 1, P—K4, P—K4; 2, Kt—KB3, Kt—QB3; 3, B—Kt5, P—QR3; 4, B—R4, Kt—B3; 5, Castles, B—K2; 6, R—K, P—QKt4; 7, B—Kt3, P—Q3; 8, P—QB3, Kt—QR4; 9, B—B2, P—B4; 10, P—Q4, Q—B2; 11, QKt—Q2, Kt—QB3; 12, P—Q5, Kt—Kt; 13, P—QP4, P—Kt5; 14, P—B5, Castles; 15, Kt—B4, QKt—Q2; 16, Q—K2, R—Kt; 17, B—Q3, R—K (a); 18, B—Q2, P x P; 19, P x P, B—B; 20, KR—QKt, R x R; 21, R x R, B—Kt2; 22, Kt—Kt6, Kt—Kt; 23, B—KKt5, B—K2; 24, Q—Kt2, P—KR3; 25, B x Kt, B x B; 26, Kt—B4, R—K2; 27, Q—Kt6, Resigns.

(a) This does not turn out satisfactorily. Kt—K followed by P—B4 would have been better.

SALE OF PERSIAN WORKS OF ART.

Messrs. Sotheby's began last Thursday their season of book and art sales with a collection of Persian and Indian manuscripts, books, and works of art, the property of an Indian gentleman, the total amounting to £3,954 14s. for 198 lots. A fine 16th century manuscript, Khamsah of Nizami, on 374 leaves with numerous miniatures, realised £500 (Hoosein); another manuscript of Jami, 1537, with several miniatures of the Bokhara School—£390 (Garabed); a Mosque Koran, undated—£200 (Hoosein). An Indian carpet of the early 17th century, 13 ft. by 6 ft., realised £600 (Tours); and a Persian silk carpet of the Shah Abbas period, 1588-1629, £600 (Carami).

A LECTURE ON BULGARIA.

At Dunblane (Perthshire), on October 21, Lady Muir delivered an address on Bulgaria. Having given a general survey of Bulgaria's past history, Lady Muir explained how the ambitions of her German ruler had driven her into the European War against her will and her traditions and the advice of her wisest Ministers. Turning to present conditions in Bulgaria, the lecturer insisted upon the danger of Bolshevism, owing to inadequate means of defence, the country's need for an outlet on the Ægean, and the urgency of the League of Nations' intervention in regard to the treatment of Bulgarian minorities in Macedonia.

CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR.

Election or no election, Christmas comes on apace, and one is pleasantly reminded of its approach by Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons, some samples of whose preparations for the festive season have reached us. Nobody who visited the "Temple of Art" at the British Empire Exhibition need be reminded how elegantly and artistically this firm does its work, and this year its noted excellence has been well maintained. The various cards for Christmas and the New Year, the auto-stationery, calendars, painting books, paper doyleys, children's books, and so on, which it has made a speciality, are as delightful as ever. Ladies, for instance, will be charmed with the paperware for the table, and there is no child who will not gasp with joy at the illustrations to such books as Kingsley's "Waterbabies" and "Madame Tussaud's." Less pretension, perhaps, has been made this year to high colours, but in the very reticence with which these gifts are invested there is pleasure. Possibly the famous "Royal Christmas Cards" are the most artistic of all these productions, but there is the stamp at once of craftsmanship and of suitability on them all.

A further moratorium of three months has been sanctioned in Roumania in regard to foreign debts.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Coffee.—The market has been very variable. Costa Rica is 6s. lower at 164s., East India is 2s. down at 148s., Kenya is 2s. up at 146s., while Santos is 4s. up at 118s.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair request. Tate's cubes are 42s. 3d., London granulated is 37s. 4½d., while Lyle's granulated is 37s. 7½d. Foreign descriptions have been rather weak. West Indian crystallised is 6d. down at 35s. White Java is 9d. down at 34s., while Czech granulated is 2s. lower at 20s. 9d. Futures have been easy:—November, 19s. 7½d.; December, 19s. 3d.; March, 19s.; May, 19s.

Maize.—The market has been rather dull. La Plata afloat has been done at 44s. 3d., while November-December has been done at 46s., and December-January at 47s. 9d.

Currants.—The market has been very firm. Business has continued to be very brisk. The best grade of Vostizzas are rather scarce. Gulf and cleaned Patras have been in good request, also Amalias and Pyrgos.

Sultanas.—The market is stronger than in the previous week and prices have risen all along the line. Supplies of Smyrna are very small, while Cretans are very dear. Australians have benefited by the prevailing situation, and prices have advanced somewhat in this case also.

Figs.—Business in figs has not yet properly commenced, though the demand up to the present has reached a very fair level.

Plums.—The market has been exceptionally firm, and prices have generally advanced. The demand for the Continent is extensive, and it is extremely probable that prices will rise still further. Futures are very hard.

Dates.—The supplies of dates that have arrived are of good quality, and a fair business has been done in Persians.

Oilcakes.—The market has been quite steady. Linseed cake is unchanged at 280s., cottonseed cake is unaltered at 180s., while coconut cake is the same at 240s.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been dull, Indian being 7½d. down at 24s. 3d., while La Plata is unchanged at 21s. 10½d. Rapeseed has been weak. Toria is 3d. lower at 25s., while real bold Ferozepore is also weaker at 23s. 10½d. Cottonseed has been fairly steady. Indian is unchanged at 12s. Egyptian black at 14s. 4½d. is 10½d. down, while Sakellarides is 1s. down at 13s. 7½d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed oil has been strong, and at 45s. 9d. is 9d. up. Rape oil has been steady, with crude unchanged at 52s. 6d., and technical refined unaltered at 55s. 6d. Cotton oil has been firm. Refined common edible is 1s. up at 52s., Egyptian crude is 1s. up at 46s. 6d., while deodorised is 1s. up at 51s.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. report as follows for the week ended October 18:—The arrivals of sultanas on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are estimated at 29,550 tons, and the sales to date are put at 27,550 tons. Closing prices, per cwt. c.i.f., London-Liverpool, Type 12, 45s.; 13, 49s.; 14, 52s.; 15, 56s.; 16, 64s.; 17, 75s. The sultana market is very firm, with an advancing tendency. The indications point to a higher level of prices being attained next week.

The total sales of figs to date are 195,900 sacks, against last year to date 131,000 sacks. Supplies are visibly diminishing. A steady demands prevails, and prices show a slight improvement on last week's level.

GOOD DEMAND FOR IVORY.

Messrs. Hale and Son in their report on the recent quarterly ivory sales state that the sales comprised 44½ tons (against 52¾ tons same time last year), viz.:—11½ tons Zanzibar, Bombay, Mozambique, East African, and Siam, 4 tons Abyssinian, 15½ tons Egyptian (14 tons Alexandrian, 1½ tons Malta description), 9½ tons Congo, West Coast Africa and Lisbon, and 2¼ tons land carriage; also 1 ton mammoth tusks, ¼ ton walrus tusks, a few rhinoceros horns and sea horse teeth, and ½ ton waste ivory. Total 44½ tons. Of the above quantities 6¾ tons consisted of lots previously offered or indirect import, viz.: 1 ton East Indian, 2½ tons Abyssinian, ½ ton Egyptian, ½ ton Congo, and 2¼ tons land carriage. The following was the assortment of the East Indian description: 7½ tons soft tusks, ¾ ton hard ditto, ½ ton billiard ball pieces and few bagatelle pieces, ¼ ton billiard ball and bagatelle scrivelloes, ¼ ton cut points for balls, ¾ ton cut points off large tusks, ¼ ton under-size and defective points, etc., ¾ ton cut hollows, and ½ ton scrivelloes. Only about 1½ tons were bought in, viz.: ½ ton Abyssinian and 1 ton land carriage. There was a good attendance of buyers and a good demand throughout. The quantity catalogued was much less than that offered at the preceding auctions, all kinds with the exception of Egyptian being in small supply. American buyers as well as Continental and the Home trade competed, which with the smaller quantity available caused prices to advance for both hard and soft tusks. Billiard ball ivory exceptionally sold in buyers' favour. Abyssinian sold well. Large and medium tusks were £8 to £12 per cwt. higher. Bail scrivelloes lower. Scrivelloes £3 to £6 per cwt. dearer. Bangle tusks £3 to £5 per cwt. higher for the larger sizes, soft steady. Egyptian.—There was a good assortment of this description. Soft

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large and medium tusks were £8 to £12 per cwt. higher, and hard £4 to £6 per cwt. dearer. Ball scrivelloes rather lower. Scrivelloes, soft were £3 to £6 per cwt. higher, and soft bangle tusks £3 to £5 per cwt. dearer for the larger sizes, small steady.

DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, in their report dated November 1, state :—

Currants.—There has been no influence during the month calculated to stimulate activity, and we have also had to contend with the disturbing effect of a general election during the height of the season. Taking these factors into consideration, the trading which has taken place may be termed fairly satisfactory. Undoubtedly the strength of the Greek market has dominated the position and helped to sustain prices.

Liverpool has been well supplied during the month. The Maronian, Tyria, Amarna, Fabian, and Lesbian, totalling 5,000 tons, afforded a good selection for buyers to work upon. Owing to a scarcity in the early days, we witnessed a keen demand for fine shade dried Vostizza, and all parcels were quickly lifted off the market, up to 72s. being paid, but towards the end of the month, with more liberal supplies available, the inquiry slackened: evidently the demand for the time being has been satisfied. Gulf and Panariti at 52s. to 58s. attracted attention, and, stocks being limited, they found a ready outlet. The lower grades at 44s. to 45s. are firmly held. Cleaned varieties at 45s. to 46s. sold fairly well, but in better qualities progress has been disappointing, which is surprising considering the good value offering. Zante bags, small fruit, sold freely at 46s., but bold fruit in wood is difficult to move. Quotations :—Pyrgos, 44s. to 45s.; Pyrgos, cleaned, 45s. to 46s.; Patras, 47s. to 50s.: Zante, 46s. to 48s.; Gulf and Panariti, 52s. to 57s.; Vostizza, 58s. to 72s.

Australian.- The Ulysses and Medic arrived with 12,000 boxes, and as quality showed a great improvement, both in colour and condition, fair progress was made, and sales were completed at 48s. to 50s.

Sultanas.—A steady upward movement has been in progress, and, with strong advices from Smyrna and the poor selection offering, each arrival met a ready sale for good quality—this grade selling at 60s. to 70s., showing an advance of many shillings during the period under review. The scarcity of fine fruit is now being severely felt, and up to 95s. has been paid for Smyrna oil-bleached Carabournu, common and medium fruit difficult of sale, 52s. to 56s. Cretans have benefited by the absence of fine Smyrna fruit, and have sold readily at 82s. 6d. to 95s. Greeks have found a ready outlet, latest prices being 65s to 72s. Australians.—The Ulysses and Medic, with 20,000 boxes, renewed stocks, and full advantage was taken of the strong demand for Smyrna fruit, and the whole arrival was disposed of at 45s. to 50s. Afghans neglected, and no business passing.

Figs have met a steady inquiry, and the arrivals of Tyria, Karnak, and Fabian are being quietly disposed of, large boxes in most request, 65s. to 85s.; small boxes slow, 70s. to 85s.; packets difficult to move; Locoums, 115s. to 125s.; pulled, 48s. to 52s.; naturals, good, 31s. to 33s.; gennine, 35s.

A Provincial Flood Relief Fund has been opened at Allahabad. The Chief Justice, who presided, in stating the need for action, said that in the Meerut division alone 600 persons had been drowned, 40,000 cattle destroyed, and 700 villages swept away. The Provincial Government had already distributed as a gift £35,000.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Firm.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended October 23 state :—

Since our last report the futures market has remained firm, but only small changes on the week are to be registered; the net changes are :— Sakellaridis, $0.03 down for November, $0.17 down for January, $0.02 up for March, $0.17 down for May; Ashmouni, $0.05 down for December, $0.33 down for February. The general position remains about unchanged. The firmness of the futures market must be mainly attributed to the high prices paid on the spot market, the latter being due to the hurried execution of old sales to spinners, sold, we understand, on a very cheap basis and left open till the last moment in the hope that, by a general break in prices, the sellers might recuperate their loss in part. The carters' strike which we experienced last week, although of small duration, nevertheless delayed the movement of the crop for about a week, and thus deprived the local spot market of probably 300,000 to 400,000 kantars of arrivals from the interior. The exporters caught short, therefore, have to fulfil their engagements from small stocks, and the holders take advantage of this situation to obtain from them the highest possible prices. The premium of Fully Good Fair spot over futures is to-day about $2½ for Sakellaridis and $1¼ for Ashmouni, and this fact produces a shortage of contracts, as it makes merchants and speculators rather reluctant to sell futures on such a cheap basis. The position is naturally rather abnormal and cannot last very long; a substantial replenishment of supplies by fresh arrivals is bound to take place during the next two months, the weight of which will sooner or later influence the market. There has been a fair business with spinners; our market is undoubtedly too dear compared with the other cotton markets. The Government has not been in the market this week. At the third October tender 5,500 kantars dockets were issued. The week's receipts amount to 303,779 kantars, against exports 168,900 kantars; the stock stands at 1,216,790 kantars.

Spot.—We have had a busy week at Minet-el-Bassal, and sales amount to about 29,600 bales, of which we estimate 15,000 bales Sakel, 6,800 bales Uppers, 6,300 bales Zagora, 200 bales Brown, 1,100 bales Pilion, and 200 bales White. The crop movement from Lower Egypt continues freely, and although there is great congestion at the railway stations due to the recent carters' strike in Alexandria, arrivals are heavy. The movement in Upper Egypt has been considerably restricted, as many cultivators are holding back their crops and refusing to market cotton at present. This attitude is probably due in some degree to newspaper propaganda for higher prices, and also to the fact that some growers are in a rather good financial position; there is also the fact that, when prices fall below a certain level, the Government supports the spot market by buying. We question if this state of things will last long, especially should we get a drop in the American market.

Sakellaridis.—Business has been done in all styles, though the lower grades have not received much attention as yet. Good and better continue in good request. Prices of spot against contracts are dearer for all grades from Good Fair upwards. Below Good Fair they are unchanged. Spot premiums are generally very high, in our opinion; but holders are firm, and the demand has been sufficient to maintain these premiums.

Uppers.—There has been business in all grades from Fully Fair upwards. There is not very much cotton for sale at present, and as a consequence spot premiums are generally considerably dearer than last week.

Lower Egypt Zagora has been in good demand, and a good business has been done. Prices of spot against contracts are appreciably dearer than last week.

Pilion.—A good business has been done in the medium and good qualities. Prices of spot against contracts are considerably dearer.

Brown.—A fair business has been done. Spot prices are a little dearer than last week.

White.—A fair business is reported in medium and good qualities. Spot prices are generally dearer.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Improved Inquiry.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 29 :—

Egyptian Spot.—An improved inquiry has been in evidence during the past week, and more business has resulted from it. The feature of the week has been the strength displayed in Alexandria and the widening of the difference between the Sakel and Upper prices. Spinners are still working from hand-to-mouth, and although large forwardings were registered last week-end no diminution in the inquiry has been noticeable. Prices have again hardened, and spinners appear to be betwixt the devil and the deep sea. They say that at present prices they cannot afford to buy Egyptian cotton, and that a break *must* come. In the meantime, they have to keep their machinery running. The Egyptian growers are fully alive to the situation, and reports from that country indicate that they are deliberately withholding cotton from the market, and that their financial position is strong enough to enable them to maintain this policy for some time to come. Opinions amongst the trade as to what course to pursue differ widely at the moment There have been many indications during the past week that certain spinners were disposed to fulfil at least a portion of their requirements, and undoubtedly an improved business in cotton for forward delivery has taken place.

This year's Sakel crop, although smaller than last year's, appears to be of very good quality, but most advices agree that much of it is being adulterated before shipment with Pilion and other inferior growths. The prospects for Upper indicate a substantial yield, but, owing to the damage from various causes which has been sustained at the latter end of the season, it is probable that we have already seen the pick of the good grades, and that the lower qualities will predominate in the market during 1925. The bulk of the inquiry here has been for F.G.F Sakel, but the response has been of a most meagre description. The

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finer qualities of Sakel have also attracted a fair share of attention, and it is in the top grades that the basis has stiffened most. Off cotton is extremely hard to place, but more business has been found in the very low and "inferior" qualities. Cotton "near at hand," "afloat," and for "immediate shipment" still continues to bulk largely in the inquiry.

In Uppers, good cotton at about 17d. to 17¼d. is eagerly bought, but the majority of holders expect to get more than this, and the supply of the so-called "cheap" cotton is strictly limited. A fair business has been done in Sudan Sakel at about 23¼d. to 23¾d. Many spinners have been experimenting with Pilion cotton, to eke out the Sakel supply, and a small forward business has been done in this cotton. A few weeks ago some very attractive types of Pilion cotton were being offered round the market at prices which looked very tempting. A few spinners took the plunge, but in most cases the cotton that arrived appeared to be too closely related to Zagora cotton to encourage much further business in this direction.

Quite a large inquiry for White Sudan from pass to 300 on American contracts has been in evidence, and a moderate business has resulted. Brown and White cotton have been neglected. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 25th inst. were returned as 12,024 bales. Estimated sales 2,300 Egyptians, and 900 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakellaridis were raised 90 points (Extra Fine exceptionally 130 points). Brown and Upper are 25 points higher. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 25.60d.

BRITISH TRADE WITH YUGOSLAVIA.

An Important Enterprise.

Yugoslavia promises in the future to be one of the most extensive outlets for British trade in the Near East, and the formation of an organisation with the title the British-Yugoslav Syndicate, whose objects are the development of trade between Great Britain and Yugoslavia, is, therefore, of special interest. The syndicate—the directors of which are M. Chedo Miyatovich, director of the Royal Privileged Commercial Agency of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in London, now merged in the syndicate, Mr. F. Morgan Williams, M. Ljuba Jankovic, and Mr. F. J. Nash—will take the responsibility for credits given by British manufacturers to Yugoslav importers, and this will, it is thought, play a most useful rôle in stimulating trade between the two countries.

Discussing the prospects for commercial expansion with a representative of The Near East, the secretary of the syndicate pointed out that so far trade had been carried on to a certain extent, but the export of British goods on any great scale had been rendered practically impossible by the too conservative policy of the average exporter, especially with regard to the grant of credit. "Thus," the secretary added, "however welcome and favoured British goods are in Yugoslavia, people there have been unable to satisfy their requirements from this country. Now the majority of British exporters realise that it will only be by the grant of short credits that they can compete with the German and Czecho-Slovakian exporters, who have for so long had the market in their hands, while for those who still adhere to the policy of selling for cash the syndicate has found a solution, for it is prepared to guarantee payment and even to finance commercial transactions completely. The names of the members of the syndicate are a sufficient guarantee that the syndicate is in a position to give practical aid in regard to imports into Great Britain from Yugoslavia and exports from Great Britain to that country.

"The Yugoslav people are perfectly aware that buying cheap goods is a very false economy, and they are quite willing to buy high-grade British goods although the price is somewhat higher. The development of mutual trade is naturally a matter of great consequence, and there is not likely to be much difficulty in this direction, for the commodities that Yugoslavia can send to this country are very varied. They include eggs, walnuts, haricot beans, wheat, maize, and other cereals, hemp of a quality superior to the average Italian product, and live stock. Yugoslavia requires at the present time, in particular, agricultural machinery —ploughs and threshers, etc.—locomotives, ironware, and similar commodities."

Further raids by Communist and Agrarian bands on the Macedonian frontier of Bulgaria have recently been reported from Sofia.

The Bulgarian Government has issued a decree prohibiting the export of wheat flour and other cereals. This measure is of a preventive character in order to avoid a famine in these commodities.

The Postmaster-General announces the resumption of the money-order service with Bulgaria, which was suspended on the outbreak of war, as from November 3, so far as ordinary money orders are concerned.

The Persian Mejliss has passed a vote providing for the re-purchase for nearly £80,000 of the thirty years' concession for navigation on Lake Urumiah granted ten years ago to a British subject named Stevens and a Russian named Boughdiantz.

A research studentship of £200, on the Ratan Tata Foundation, tenable at the London School of Economics and Political Science for one year, has been awarded to Sealey Patrick Dobbs (Marlborough College and St. John's, Cambridge).

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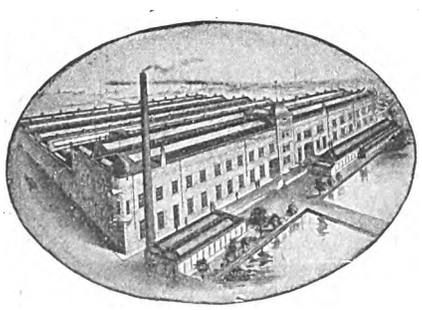
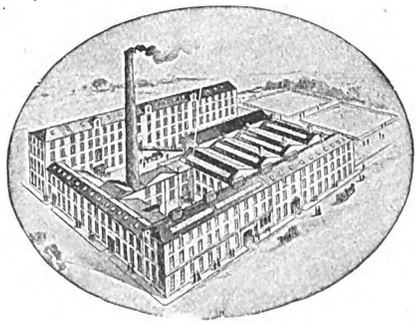
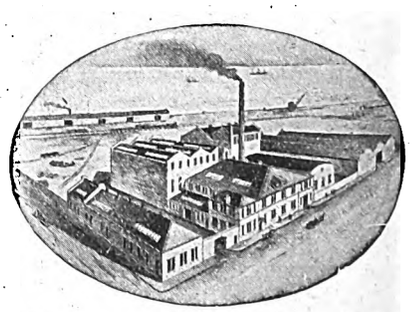
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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

NEW P. AND O. STEAMERS.

Fortnightly Sailings to Australia.

Two steamers were launched by Messrs. Barclay, Curle, and Co. on the Clyde on October 31 for the P. and O. Company's Australia service. These are the Cathay and Comorin. The former was christened by Viscountess Inchcape and the latter by her daughter, the Hon. Mrs. Alexander Shaw. Viscount Inchcape, chairman of the P. and O. Company, was present at the launching.

The Cathay and Comorin are two of three sister ships, each of 15,000 tons, with comfortable passenger accommodation and good speed. The third of these vessels, to be called the Chitral, is being built by Messrs. Alexander Stephen and Son, at Linthouse, Glasgow. The company's losses in ships sunk by enemy action during the war were heavy, and its larger passenger steamers were particularly singled out for destruction, so that for the past four years the Australia service via Suez has had to be limited to four-weekly departures. When the three new ships are in commission the P. and O. Company's pre-war fortnightly service to Australia will be re-established. The Cathay will sail on her maiden voyage on February 27 next; the Comorin a month later.

The principal dimensions of the new vessels are: Length, 525 ft.; breadth, 70 ft.; depth amidships, 46 ft. They will have two funnels and two pole masts, and will be driven by steam, raised by oil fuel, from three double-ended and four single-ended cylindrical boilers, actuating two sets of quadruple expansion engines, balanced, to ensure smooth running, on the Yarrow-Schlick-Tweedy system. Cabin accommodation and public saloons for 203 first-class and 103 second-class passengers will be provided on three decks, all the accommodation being on or above the upper deck. The vessels are expected to be ready for their sea trials early in February.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Olympia for Bombay (Liverpool, November 21). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Somersetshire for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 8).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 19).

British India Line.—S.s. Boyne for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 15); s.s. Malda for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 22).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Valencia for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 11).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Trentino for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Galatz, and Braila (London, November 15).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 22); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 6).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, November 14); s.s. Nellore for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, November 15).

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The quantity of gold extracted from the mines in India during the month of July amounted to 35,201 oz., valued at Rs. 20.66,518.

Lord Meston has been elected to the vacancy on the board of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company caused by the death of Sir Thomas Holderness.

During the first six months of 1924 Roumania's exports amounted to 6,760,481,000 lei, as compared with 5,277,029,000 lei during the corresponding period of 1923.

Bondholders of the Kingdom of Roumania Four per Cent. External Loan of 1922 are informed that the half-yearly drawing took place in Bucharest on October 30.

A notice has been issued by the Egyptian Customs Department stating that a freight charge of 180 millièmes will be added to the value of each imported postal parcel, as declared to and accepted by that Department, for the purpose of arriving at the dutiable value of such parcels, except in the case of postal parcels containing tobacco, tombac, cigars, or cigarettes, or any goods in respect of which tariff valuations are fixed from time to time.

As Mr. A. C. Chatterjee, who has recently been appointed High Commissioner for India, will not be in a position to take charge of his office until the middle of January next, the Government of India, with the approval of the Secretary of State for India in Council have appointed Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, K.C.I.E., C.B.E., to act as High Commissioner meanwhile. Sir B. N. Mitra, who has been Financial Adviser to the Government of India (Military Finance) and has recently acted as Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council, will assume charge as High Commissioner on November 6.

H.M. Consul-General at Beyrout reports that an agreement has recently been concluded between Syria and Turkey regarding the simplification of Customs formalities, etc., in the case of goods passing over the Cilicie-Nord Syrie Railway between Alexandretta and Nisibin. Instead of opening the goods on departure and at each crossing of the frontier, the Syrian and Turkish Customs will in future simply verify the packings, seal the trucks, and control the seals at the different frontiers. Only at the final destination will the goods be examined. Prohibited articles will be allowed to pass through Turkey in transit if destined for consumption in Syria, provided that their real nature is declared.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97 3/8-9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	255-257
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	312-316
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	23.57-23.59
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 31/32-1.6
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	94.25-94.30
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	798-802
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	340-350,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 31/32-1.6
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	830-845
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.54 1/16-4.54 3/8
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	86.60-86.65
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	152¼-152½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	104.10-.20
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	620-630
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	320-323,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	23.55-23.70

ANCHOR LINE

LIVERPOOL TO BOMBAY.

KARACHI via Bombay, calling at Gibraltar & Egypt.

LARGE STEAMSHIPS. UPPER DECK CABINS.
MODERATE FARES.
RECOGNISED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

Passenger sailing dates:—

*Circassia, Nov. 18.	*Massilia, Jan. 30.
*Olympia, Nov. 28.	*Elysia, Feb. 11.
*Castalia, Dec. 16.	*Circassia, Feb. 27.
*Scindia, Jan. 16.	Olympia, Mar. 13.

* First class passengers only.

ANCHOR LINE (HENDERSON BROTHERS), LTD.,
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Company Meetings.

BENGAL DOOARS RAILWAY.

Large Increase in Gross Earnings.

The thirty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the Bengal Dooars Railway Company, Ltd., was held on October 28 at the offices of the company, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Robert Miller (the Chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, in moving the adoption of the report, said: The results of the year's working are again satisfactory, showing, with few exceptions, an improvement under all heads, attributable to a good tea and tobacco season and to an increase in the population of the Dooars. The aggregate gross earnings were Rs. 20,53,379, as compared with Rs. 18,13,192, an increase of Rs. 2,40,187, or 11.69 per cent. Coaching traffic increased by Rs. 41,670, the number of third and inter class passengers being 106,419 in excess of the previous year. The earnings from parcels and luggage were also greater. Goods traffic shows a substantial improvement, the gross receipts being Rs. 15,10,790, an increase of Rs. 1,95,605. This is principally accounted for by the carriage of tea, the receipts from which increased by Rs. 1,09,552, the weather having been favourable and the crop showing a welcome increase. There were also increases in metals, coal, wood, grain, tobacco, oils, provisions, limestone, and lime, and other articles of merchandise. The only falling-off of any importance was in jute, where there was a decrease of Rs. 34,536, the crop being a small one and not being particularly good in quality. Another reason for this decrease was that because of the good prices of tobacco a considerable area of jute land was put under tobacco cultivation. Other decreases were shown in stone, salt, and oil seeds.

The aggregate expenditure for the year was Rs. 10,91,748, or 53.17 per cent. of the gross earnings, as compared with Rs. 8,85,885, or 48.86 per cent., for the previous year. The main cause for this increase, amounting to Rs. 2,05,863, was greater expenditure on renewals of sleepers and relaying work, and more extensive repairs to bridges, earthworks, and station buildings, etc., which, under the head "Maintenance of way, works, and stations," shows an increase of Rs. 1,73,269. The result is that the net earnings for the year ended March 31, 1924, amount to Rs. 9,61,631, an increase of Rs. 34,324 over the previous year's figure. Capital expenditure over the whole system during the year under review amounted to £9,117, of which £6,678 was on rolling stock, £1,211 on stations and buildings, the balance being accounted for in ballast and permanent way, etc.

After deducting Indian taxation, amounting to Rs. 1,27,793, from the net earnings, the sum of Rs. 8,33,838 remains, which, at exchange 1s. 4d., equals in sterling £55,589 4s. To this must be added exchange differences and interest earned and the balance brought into the accounts from the previous year, which makes a total of £100,856 11s. 2d. From this total provision has been made for the payment of a year's dividend on the preference stock, £14,400, and for income and corporation profits tax £1,500, which leaves a balance of £84,956 on net revenue account. An interim dividend of 3 per cent. was paid on the ordinary stock on April 16, 1924, absorbing £12,000, and £3,000 has been carried to reserve, leaving £69,956 to be dealt with.

Our manager, Mr. Polwhele, sees no reason why our earnings for the current year should not equal those of the previous year, and this view is supported by the good traffics we have already experienced. At September 27, 1924, the approximate traffic receipts amounted to Rs. 10,09,442, as compared with Rs. 9,37,589 for the corresponding period of the previous year, an improvement of Rs. 71,853.

After careful consideration, we have decided to recommend the payment of a final dividend of 4 per cent. and a bonus of 3 per cent., making a total distribution of 10 per cent. for the year, and leaving a balance of £41,956 to be carried forward, or £1,462 more than the amount brought in from the previous year.

I have again much pleasure in recording the Board's appreciation of the valuable services rendered to this company for so many years by our manager in India and his assistants, and in this I should like to include the members of the London office staff.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY.

Record Gross Earnings.

The sixty-sixth ordinary general meeting of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company, Ltd., was held on October 30, at the company's offices, 132, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Robert Miller (the Chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. R. C. F. Volkers, C.I.E.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said: The gross earnings for the year were Rs. 779 lakhs, which gives an average of Rs. 543 per mile per week, and Rs. 6.37 per train mile. This figure of gross earnings exceeds the corresponding figure of the previous year by Rs. 18 lakhs and is the highest on record. You will see from the results given on page five of the report that during the five years ended March, 1923-24, the gross earnings have increased by nearly Rs. 121.5 lakhs, or 18.45 per cent., against an increase in the mean mileage worked of 63.88 miles, or 2.37 per cent. That is a very satisfactory result in face of the tardy recovery of universal trade. Although, as I have said, the gross earnings of the year 1923-24 are the highest on record, they are to some extent a disappointment. We had been in expectation of attaining gross earnings of about Rs. 800 lakhs; but, as you are doubtless aware, the East Coast line for a length of some 175 miles was practically wrecked by the unprecedented cyclone of November 17 and 18, 1923. The line has now been completely restored and fortified.

Passenger traffic shows an increase for the year of 467,000 in total numbers carried and of Rs. 11¼ lakhs in fares received. Goods traffic, too, shows an increase both in total tonnage carried and in freights received, the former being 911,000 tons and the latter Rs. 6 lakhs. The improvement in total gross earnings during the year amounts to Rs. 18¼ lakhs, or 2.40 per cent. This increase, though relatively small, is hopeful, as indicating the gradual, if tardy, recovery of trade.

Working expenses during the year show an increase of Rs. 21½ lakhs, or 4.41 per cent. To some extent the restoration of the East Coast line accounts for the increase, as a substantial portion of the expenditure incurred on that account had to be met from the revenue of the year. I would, however, remind you of the warning I gave last year as to the impossibility of retaining for long, without detriment to the efficient upkeep and working of the railway, the reduction, more or less arbitrarily made, in the legitimate requirements for ordinary working expenses, in order to compensate, as far as possible, for the slow revival of trade and at the same time to make provision for carrying out the arrears of renewals and replacements that had, perforce, to be postponed during the period of the Great War. You will recognise, I am sure, that there is a claim—I may even say a first claim—on any increase in gross earnings to ease the existing strain on the curtailed provision for working expenses of keeping the line up to a standard of safety and providing for the efficient working of the traffic till such time as equilibrium is restored.

As regards the prospects of the railway during the current year 1924-25, I am glad to be able to tell you that, so far, the gross earnings show a marked improvement on the corresponding figures of the previous year. The total increase up to September 20, 1924, amounts to the very satisfactory figure of Rs. 34.25 lakhs. This improvement has been brought about in large measure through the introduction of up-to-date methods of operating traffic.

In the matter of new construction, substantial progress has been made in the construction of the lines leading to the South Karanpura coalfield. The Talchir coalfield railway is also progressing satisfactorily. We confidently expect, as soon as these lines have been carried through to completion, a very considerable increase in the coal traffic. The Amda Jamda Railway is expected to be completed throughout in a month or two, and is already carrying a fair volume of traffic, principally iron ore. It has also made possible the mining of manganese in the vicinity of Jamda, and a traffic in that mineral is springing up. I believe the time has now come when we may look for the early commencement of work on the Raipur Parbatipur Chord from the Central Provinces to Vizagapatam and on

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the harbour to the latter port. These two schemes I might aptly describe as the coping stones of the work represented by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway system. They will add materially to the prosperity of the railway, the former by opening out a new country of very great area, which at the present moment is stagnant for the want of efficient means of transportation, and the latter by providing a convenient port for the exportation of the produce which will be forthcoming when the Chord line is built.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Sudan Plantations Syndicate.

The report of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Ltd., for the year ended June 30, 1924, states that the operations of the Kassala Cotton Company, Ltd., in which the syndicate retains a substantial interest, are making satisfactory progress; the company's first crop is due to be harvested and shipped during the first half of 1925.

The subjoined, which includes the production from the area irrigated by the new pumping installation at Wad el Nau, shows the cotton crops dealt with during the season:—Zeidab, 3,088 bales. Gezira.—Tayiba, 1,025 bales: Barakat, 1,887 bales; Hosh, 4,507 bales; Wad el Nau, 7,172 bales—17,679 bales. The whole of the Zeidab cotton was disposed of prior to June 30 last, but only about one-third of the Gezira cotton, which is a later maturing crop, had been sold at that date. The remainder of the Gezira cotton is entered in the balance-sheet at a valuation made by the directors, which they are pleased to inform shareholders has been proved to be conservative by subsequent realisations. The work at the Makwar Dam has proceeded satisfactorily during the year, and the directors have been notified by the Sudan Government that there is no reasonable doubt that both the dam and the canalisation will be completed in time for gravitation water to be available in 1925. The profit and loss account for the twelve months, after deduction of all outgoings, shows a net profit of £112,934 3s. 4d., which, added to the balance brought forward from last year, viz., £168,631 10s. 8d., brings the total credit to £281,565 14s. The interim dividend of 2s. per share (10 per cent.) paid in July last (less income-tax) on 450,000 shares absorbed the sum of £45,000. The directors now recommend the declaration of a final dividend of 2s. per share (10 per cent.) on the issued capital of 600,000 shares, less income-tax, £60,000, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £176,565 14s.

Assam-Bengal Railway.

The report of the Assam-Bengal Railway for the year to March 31 states that the gross receipts, including the Mymensingh-Bhairab-Bazar, Chaparmukh-Silghat and Katakhal-Lalabazar Railways, were Rs. 1,44,84,265, against Rs. 1,32,42,278, and the working expenses were Rs. 98,11,305, compared with Rs. 99,08,129 in the previous year, with the result that the ratio of working expenses to receipts has fallen from 74.82 to 67.74. The usual half-yearly dividends at the guaranteed rate of 3 per cent. per annum were paid on January 1 and July 1 last.

P. and O.

At the 84th ordinary general meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, to be held at the company's offices on December 10, at 11 a.m., the directors, after providing for the usual dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock, less income-tax, will recommend a dividend on the deferred stock of 6 per cent. for the six months, free of income-tax, making, with the interim dividend of 6 per cent. paid in May, a total distribution on the deferred stock of 12 per cent. for the year.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Diesel Motor.—The Egyptian Government invite tenders for the supply of a Diesel or Semi-Diesel motor of 30 h.p.—November 12.

Looms, etc —The Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of (1) Looms and preparatory machines required for the Trades School at Mansûra. (2) Machines for rug factory at Assiout. November 15.

Leather.—The Egyptian Ministry of Education invites tenders for the supply of leather required for the model workshops and trades schools of the Ministry. November 15. (D.O.T.)

Water Tower.—The Ministry of the Interior in Egypt invites tenders for the supply and erection of a water tower at Mit Ghamr. December 1. (D.O.T.)

Soap. — The Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 110 tons of hard soap to Egyptian Army Supply Stores, Tura. December 2.

Cloth.—The Administration of the Egyptian State Railways invites tenders for the supply of cloth for clothing for the summer of 1925 and the winter season 1925-26. The cloth required is:—Cloth, blue, for uniforms and overcoats; cloth, dark grey, for uniforms and overcoats; cloth, light grey, for uniforms and overcoats; khaki serge, khaki drill, blue jean. The total cost, estimated on last supply prices, is approximately £9,300, delivered Egypt. Copy of specification may be obtained on application, against payment in advance of 250 mills., at the Inspecting Engineer's Office, Egyptian and Sudan Government, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1, where standard samples are on exhibition. December 9.

Axlebox Pads.—The Egyptian State Railways invite tenders for the supply of lubricating axlebox pads. Tender forms and specifications can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. December 15.

Railway Sleepers.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of wooden railway sleepers. December 16.

Steel Reservoir.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and erection of a steel reservoir of 300 m^3 capacity, with all steel work, etc. December 20. (D.O.T.)

Turkey.

Wagons.—The Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply of 40 wagons for rails and ballast, of which 25 are for the Angora-Moussakeuy line and 15 for the Samsoun-Siva line. November 21. (D.O.T.)

Bridges.—The Commissariat of Public Works invites tenders for the supply and erection of five metal bridges on the Samsoun-Sivas line. November 22 (D.O.T.)

Lieutenant-General J. E. Scott, the Political Resident, in the presence of H.H. Sir Abdul Kerim, the Abdali Sultan of Lahej, laid the foundation-stone of the Aden electrical power-house at Hejaf on October 6.

THE QUICKEST ROUTES
TO
EGYPT : PALESTINE : GREECE
CONSTANTINOPLE
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ALL PARTS OF THE NEAR EAST
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CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - - £390,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

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Chief Office, TEHERAN.
Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdah, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - £5,013,834

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Basildon House, Moorgate, LONDON.

GREECE.
Central Office: ATHENS.
14 Branches.

EGYPT.
Central Office: ALEXANDRIA.
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TURKEY.
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(Galata, with Sub Branch at Stamboul).

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Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.

Manager in London:—
S. A. H. SITWELL, Esq.

Authorised Capital - - Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - - Rs. 5.62.50.000
Reserve - - - - - - Rs. 4.57.50.000

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
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CAPITAL PAID UP - Drs. 30,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 29,266,341.40

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 705—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Ministerial Appointments.

We cannot let the occasion pass without congratulating the Prime Minister and the country on the selection of two such men as Mr. Austen Chamberlain and Mr. L. S. Amery for the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office respectively. The eminent soundness of these two Secretaries is universally recognised, their ability and knowledge no less; and last, but not least, it is extremely comforting to think that, after some periods of untraditional practice, the two Offices, upon the efficiency and constancy of which Great Britain has for long and rightly prided herself, will have surely restored to them their proper functions. To particularise upon these two selections, it will at once be recalled, from our own point of view, that Mr. Austen Chamberlain is a convinced believer in the necessity of Anglo-French co-operation, in the Near East and in Central Europe no less than nearer home; and upon Mr. Amery's profound interest in British mandated territory in the Middle East it is unnecessary to comment. We look forward with some confidence to a new attempt to approach the problems of the Near and Middle East in a firm and comprehensive spirit.

Yugoslav Constancy.

That which was least expected in Yugoslavia has happened. The wheel has wearily turned full circle, and M. Pashitch is once more Prime Minister. What is perhaps even more than that, he has with him, as his Minister of Education, M. Pribitchevitch. Two things have probably facilitated this event, which it is difficult enough to hail with any enthusiasm: the extraordinarily foolish behaviour of M. Raditch, who has been prattling unceasingly of late of his determination to found Peasant Republican parties in those parts of Yugoslavia in which he has clearly no mandate, Serbia and Slovenia; and the result of the British election, which conceivably had some influence upon the King in asking the well-tried Premier once more to hold the reins. It is said that the health of M. Pashitch will not permit him to take a very active place in the governing of Yugoslavia, and that the main task will devolve upon the Minister of War and Marine, General Trifkovitch. Whether this new Cabinet, which we are glad to see contains M. Nintchitch and M. Stoyadinovitch as Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Finance respectively, will set about its work in that spirit of friendship and compromise which is happily evident in some parts of the Triune Kingdom to-day, or will but endeavour to show the Croats "what Belgrade thinks of them" remains to be seen. Our surprise in perceiving the re-summoning of a man who, if anyone in Yugoslavia has had his chance, has already had his, will be soon forgotten in gratification if stability for Yugoslavia is its sequel. But the fact that this is merely an "election Cabinet," designed to hold office only until the General Election in February, and the obvious inference that the election will be held, so to speak, under Pashitch auspices, may prepare one for the nature of its functioning.

Politics in Greece.

Greece politically has a way of driving foreign observers almost to despair. At the very moment when the Governor of the National Bank is abroad arranging the collecting of a loan for the benefit of Greek refugees, politicians in Greece avail themselves of the opportunity for raking up all or many of their old sores. This time is it not so much M. Papanastassiou's extremists, but the Royalists who appear resolved to show the unity of Greece in the worst possible light. In the last few weeks there has been a distinct revival of Royalist sentiment, if the attempts of the various Royalist cliques to unite may be construed in this sense. What good they can do by opposing M. Michalopopoulos at this serious juncture, when Greece is simply crying out for a cessation of all politics, is not easy to imagine. The Assembly met on Monday to discuss the change of régime, but the form of government is of small import compared with the sovereign necessity of work and development and provision for the refugees.

Opposition to Angora.

As in some Balkan countries, so in Republican Turkey: though there may be a good showing of intellectual opposition to the actual Government of the day, the probabilities are all in favour of the

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powers that be remaining where they have installed themselves. In the Angora Assembly, indeed, the Government of General Ismet has not so far been exhibited in any very bad light, although the Opposition includes some extremely able men, and although part of the Constantinople Press still clamours for the removal of the whole Cabinet. The chief points of criticism appeared to concern the judicial machinery, the problem of the Moslem refugees, and internal questions such as public instruction, but none of these either in themselves or collectively, were enough to bring discredit on the Government. Angora, indeed, seems to have a short way with dissenters. It is naturally taking some time to grow up, and it still seems sufficient to destroy a man's case if suspicion be thrown, however unjustifiably, upon his republicanism

A Cairo Olive Branch.

There is a phrase in one of Mr. H. G. Wells' novels, if we remember it aright, about "the deliberate contemplation of nothingness." It would seem not altogether inapplicable to the mood which Cairo has for the last month indulged. With whatever glory the Egyptian Premier may have returned from London, the fact remains that he went back in but a barren triumph. Negatives are at best cold comfort, and, since his return, brains have been racked to see whether something more than a mere negative cannot be arranged between Egypt and Great Britain. From this chastened condition of Cairo opinion has been produced a welcome, if vague, proposal for a renewal of negotiations. It emanates from the editor of *La Liberté*, an able man, who has never, so far as we know, made any attempt to discriminate between his own views and those of Zaghloul Pasha. Despite official denials, therefore, his proposal may be taken as having the sanction of the Egyptian Government. Briefly put, his suggestion amounts to a proposal that, seeing that the means of revolution and of a long diplomatic fight with the British Government are out of the question, what he calls a new *modus vivendi* should be arrived at. This might last for perhaps three or four years, during which Egypt should be admitted to the League of Nations, might so train her Army as eventually to fit it to take over the guardianship of the Suez Canal alone, and might secure immediate effective co-administration of the Sudan.

Its Content and Practicability.

What does all this amount to? Certainly it would at first sight seem to imply a very welcome psychological development in responsible Nationalist opinion, even if Cairo's mental processes still remain in the same intractable state. It is a profound relief to know that assassination as a political method is no longer countenanced as a possible means of attaining Egypt's desires, and that it is recognised that a popular outburst as a result of friction between Britain and Egypt could benefit no one. But it is difficult to read into this proposal much more than this. What is a *modus vivendi* if the present relations between Britain are not such? It is something reached or found or operated that is either *faute de mieux* or *faute de pire*. Presumably, it is now perceived in Cairo that the recent action of the Premier stultified the whole position of the Egyptian Government, and that, apart from domestic organisation, it has now no cards to play. If that is the case, and Cairo fears that worse may befall her, she can always remember that Britain is ready at any time to reopen negotiations. It is not to be expected that the Egyptian Premier would himself again endure the rigours of the English climate, but the way is still free to anyone else whom he chooses to nominate. A little longer contemplation—the while the much-needed works of internal reconstruction are being attended to—and there is no reason to suppose that Cairo would not be able to send a delegate possessed of some sense of the British attitude on the four points reserved in the Declaration of February, 1922. Our cards are all on the table: it is for Egypt to say when she wishes the deal to begin.

Uncertainty in Persia.

Persia at the moment appears to be in a most unhappy state, by no means unknown in her former history, in which no very definite authority prevails, everybody is open to suspicion, and a vague kind of disintegration threatens to occur. Without much doubt the writ of the Sardar Sipah does not run as far or as swiftly as it did before the collapse of the Republican agitation. Notable events have recently marred the rule of this strong man. There was the murder of the American Consul, Major Imbrie; then came the revolt of the Sheikh of Mohammerah, which is not yet at an end; and now comes the news of the murder of the Englishman, ex-Sergeant Cox. Upon this last incident it is impossible in the absence of reliable information to make any useful comment, but it would seem to show either that Xenophobia in Persia is on the increase, or that the gendarmes are not in sufficient fear of the law of the land. Little doubt can be entertained that for the time being Russia and Germany have the highest place in the esteem of Persia; and the hopes that were set upon the introduction of the American finance advisers are being blighted by the Persians themselves. One would scarcely be surprised if another big political movement were in the near future to overtake the land of the Shahs, directed not from Teheran or Tabriz, but from the more conservative parts.

INDIA.

The Reign of Law.

With an ex-Lord Chancellor at Whitehall and an ex-Lord Chief Justice at Delhi, it may fairly be said that the Reign of Law, which is not exactly the same as the proverbial *vakil raj*, has been formally inaugurated in India, and we should like to think that Lord Birkenhead's appointment could be accepted as an omen for its effective establishment. Our contemporaries are obviously puzzled to account for the selection, and some of them have even been moved to indulge in archæological research as to the events of the distant year 1920, but its value is a topic of greater interest than its origin, and on this point we are hopeful, but not altogether confident. The ideal Secretary of State for India would be a blend of steadiness, tact, and vision. Lord Birkenhead is known to the public as a man of outstanding ability, a great advocate in the law courts, and an ardent fighter in politics. The two orbits do not coincide, and we must rely mainly on the quickness of apprehension, which he undoubtedly possesses, to enable him to keep a prudent course in unfamiliar waters. The course is set, we take it, by the passage in Mr. Baldwin's election address which accepted the existing Constitution as embodying a settled policy to be carried out in the letter and the spirit; the new Secretary of State can do that, and his acceptance of the office must be presumed to show that he means to do it.

The New Pact.

The compromise formula which has been arrived at by the Hindu extremist leaders appears to carry matters just a little further. Several of the clauses are obviously common form, and the definite arrangement that the Swaraj party is to work for

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the Congress programme in the Legislatures means very little until we know the programme which the Congress adopts at its next meeting, for the one claim which that body can make to political ability lies in the readiness of its response to the environment. The actual advance lies rather in the approach to practical politics. The formula must, we think, be read as one more ceremony in the prolonged obsequies of the policy of non-co-operation, which has done so much to sterilise Indian activities, and which people of greater practical experience would have strangled at its birth, or, at any rate, buried long ago. One point which strikes us is that the cables do not mention any Moslem leader as signatory to the pact. In these days of "unity," one would have expected to see a Maulana beside the Mahatma, but until the text of the agreement reaches this country we must remain in doubt whether the Moslem extremists have decided to stand aside.

The Progress of "Religious" Unity.

We can trace very few signs of an immediate response to the efforts of the recent Conference for the promotion of religious "unity," and a glance over the newspapers brought by the last mail suggests that for the moment it has operated as an irritant. We find ardent Hindu missionaries indignantly denying that their propaganda is to be suspended. We find gentlemen insisting that they are Moslems first and Indians afterwards. We find Hindu journals reminding the Moslems that they are in India only on sufferance, and must mend their manners if they want to stay. Such straws as these may serve to show how the wind is setting. Assuming the missionaries to be sincere, they could adopt no other attitude, however inconvenient it may be. The view that religion transcends nationality could, we think, find ample support among Moslem authorities, though it is a complete negation of the "unity" which politicians seek. The doctrine that the weak must submit to the strong is supported by the whole history of India, though it is not quite certain that the Hindus are the stronger. We are then in touch with facts, which have to be taken into account; that they are unpleasant facts we agree, but that is no reason for shutting our eyes to their existence.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The New Cabinet.

The new Conservative Government made its bow to the public last Friday, after the inevitable two or three days of rumours, hopes, and agonised fears on the part of expectant Ministers. Mr. Baldwin's majority, of course, gave him a free hand, but he was not able to persuade Sir Robert Horne to come in—he has considerable City interests which he found himself unable to resign—and the new Cabinet, with two significant exceptions, is very much the same in personnel as the last Conservative Government.

It is mainly the places that have been shifted—thus Mr. Bridgeman goes from the Home Office to the Admiralty, Mr. Amery from the Admiralty to the Colonies, and Mr. Wood from Education to Agriculture. On the other hand, Sir L. Worthington Evans retains his old post, the War Office: but Mr. Austen Chamberlain goes to the Foreign Office, instead of Lord Curzon, who becomes Lord President – a position of *otium cum dignitate* without the burden of heavy administrative work, to which Lord Curzon's health would probably be unequal. Mr. Chamberlain will probably do very well at the Foreign Office; he is a hard worker, and he is tactful and straightforward.

The surprise appointment is Mr. Churchill, who becomes Chancellor of the Exchequer a fortnight after his return to the Conservative fold. The Treasury is practically the only department Mr. Churchill has not held, and his appointment is regarded as implementing Mr. Baldwin's pledge not to introduce Protection. It may be also a gesture of revolt from the Die Hards.

Lord Birkenhead goes to the India Office—a good appointment. He does not lack courage should an emergency arise, but he has a profound belief in equal justice, and the way in which he trounced the House of Lords a few months ago for the approval which some of its members expressed for the Dyer methods in Amritsar will not soon be forgotten. The implications of that speech will not be unrecognised in India, and this is likely to prove the most important appointment in the new Cabinet.

On the whole, the new Cabinet team is both competent and strong. It should last its full five years.

The Exit of Labour.

The Labour Government made a not very impressive exit, its last act being a *communiqué* on the notorious Zinovieff letter, which seemed to say nothing at all. It had to be read very carefully before it revealed that the Cabinet could not demonstrate the document to be a forgery, but at the same time would not admit it to be genuine. Altogether, a hopeless muddle, seeing that Mr. MacDonald had already accepted it as genuine in his protest to Russia.

Meanwhile the ex-Cabinet Ministers are bidding farewell according to their lights—and temperaments. Mr. Wheatley hints at wrecking tactics towards the new Government; Mr. Thomas, in a very noble speech, remarked that he hated class warfare, and expressed the hope that nobody would be able to say that the presence of a working man at the Colonial Office had damaged the British Empire.

These two speeches correctly summarise the two courses open to the Opposition. If Labour loses its temper and resorts to wrecking tactics, it is bound to lose support in the country, and the tendency will be for the Liberals to gain ground at the expense of Labour. If, on the other hand, it adopts the rôle of a constitutional and patriotic Opposition, it may oust the Liberals altogether and make itself quite definitely the alternative Government about the year 1928.

But not, I think, with Mr. MacDonald at the head. The faults of character and faults of temper of the late Prime Minister render him a liability rather than an asset of the Labour movement. For the present he remains as leader of his party, but it would not be surprising if another leader were selected at the annual election next year.

A Railway Disaster.

A terrible railway accident occurred last week near Blackpool, in which a train ran off the metals, and several people were killed, while others have since died in hospital. British railways since the War have once again reached so high a standard of speed and security that we are apt to think of them as absolutely immune from disaster, but there have been two or three awkward accidents this year, and the public uneasiness has been reflected in some criticism in the Press.

George Eliot's Husband.

A few days ago there died, quite obscurely, at the age of 84, Mr. J. W. Cross, the husband of George Eliot. Probably few people were aware of his existence; he was 40 when he married Miss

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Evans, and she died a few months later. At that time she was considered one of the immortals, and a greater figure in literature than the author of "Jane Eyre," but the Brontës' fame has risen with the years, whereas that of George Eliot has sunk. The truth is that the divine Charlotte had passion, whereas George Eliot had only intellect. Her only chance of salvation is to be completely forgotten; when that happens, the literary critics will rediscover her, and attempt to revive her work

The American President.

Not a great deal of interest was taken in England in the result of the American Presidential election. Mr. Coolidge is a perfectly safe man, and his continuance in office was not unexpected. It means, according to the American Press, that there will be neither excursions nor alarums from Washington, and that the United States will "cultivate its garden" and not interfere in European affairs more than necessary. In particular, it is taken for granted that there will be no great "moral gestures," and no scaling down of debts.

Americans accepted the verdict of the polls as one of stability and conservatism, as in England; indeed, it was an American who remarked to me that the result was part of the swing to the Right which was noticeable all over the world, and—referring to the British elections—said that "When father says turn, we all turn."

A British Airship.

Are we to see a revival of the airship? It looks like it. The failure of the Zeppelins during the War, and the disaster to our own airship shortly afterwards, seemed to have ended the experimental stage with a final negative; but the successful flight of the German airship to the United States recently, and the evident belief of the Americans in this form of transit, have obviously stirred interest in England once more.

It is announced that a new British airship, twice as large as the German, is to be built by Messrs. Vickers for the Government; and a director of the company concerned has stated that "the commercial success of airships depends very much on obtaining a satisfactory engine which will enable people to visit the United States for a week-end. When we have finished, we expect to do the journey within two days and to come back in perhaps quicker time."

All this sounds hopeful, but some figures recently given in *Nature* suggest that we have a long way to go before we reach success. The trouble is that the airship, unlike the steamer, soons wears out. Not only is it expensive to build, but it is very fragile. Unless it can be made both more safe and more durable, its commercial future remains obscure.

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The Penny Post?

The Labour Government missed a great opportunity when it failed to restore the penny post. It was pointed out at the time that the loss of revenue from the abolition of the McKenna duties would have more than covered any deficit on the restoration of penny postage. Now, however, the *Glasgow Herald* makes itself responsible for the suggestion that one of the early acts of the new Government will be the reintroduction of the old charge. It points out that there is a surplus on the telephone working, and that it would be better to reduce postage, which everybody uses, rather than the telephone, which nobody uses unless he is compelled. If Mr. Baldwin is really thinking on these lines, all of us, irrespective of party, will rise up and call him blessed.

The New London.

General Elections make no difference to the rebuilding of London, which proceeds apace. Housebreakers are at work in Fleet Street as well as the Strand—both of them thoroughfares which could do with improvements; but the new Regent Street is steadily progressing, and I am barbarian enough (or honest enough) to prefer the new style to the old—at any rate for draper's shops. But the greatest shock is the news that the Bank of England is to be rebuilt. The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street has already removed, gold and all, to other premises, and the new bank will shortly be under construction. After this, one would not be very surprised to hear that St. Paul's Cathedral was to be modernised.

The loss of the old Bank will be a shock, but there is really a great deal to be said for the rebuilding of the City. Many of the old offices which house world-famous firms are little better than slums, and their demolition has long been overdue. We may not succeed in getting a new heaven and a new earth, but it is something to achieve a new City and a new West End.

A Faith-Healing Storm.

It did not require a prophet to foresee that Dean Inge would denounce the recent revival of faith-healing in the Church as a piece of miracle-mongering and "a recrudescence of superstition among the half-educated"—in which category, I suppose, a Dean naturally includes the Bishops. The Dean makes the sound point that medicine only advanced when it won its freedom from magic and superstition, but he is obviously annoyed that this near relation of Christian Science should invade the Establishment.

Actually, one hears that the results of faith-healing have been rather exaggerated by the popular Press, which loves a sensation. There have been interesting cases of the relief, or it may be the cure, of muscular paralysis, but the blind have not seen, nor the deaf heard, and many have gone empty away.

A Modern Bible.

Perhaps the Dean will now proceed to castigate the Scottish professor who has just produced a translation of the Bible into modern English—very modern English, in fact. From a first glance at this production I was interested to discover that Adam and Eve lived in a park, not a Garden of Eden, and that Noah and his family occupied a barge—somehow the conception of the Patriarch as a bargee is a little comic. The Song of Solomon is rendered into free verse—very free verse.

The professor has not yet got to the Prophets, but I fear the worst when he arrives at the Book of Daniel. The lions' den will probably become a Zoological Gardens.

Tertium Quid.

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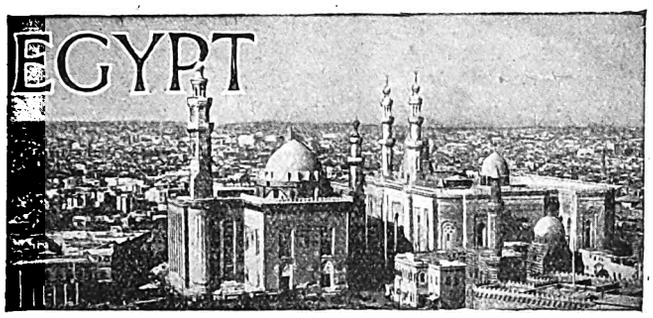
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, November 1.

The Tense Atmosphere.

During the past week the High Commissioner and the Governor-General of the Sudan both returned from England. In spite of the appearance of calm and indifference which the Zaghloulist Press and the leading Zaghloulists display, their arrival has accentuated the atmosphere of anxious expectation that has existed ever since it became known that the conversations in London had broken down.

Zaghloul Pasha has announced that internal matters must receive attention, and at the dinner given him by the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies he made an eloquent appeal for union. But whatever reassurance may have been created by his declarations and his silence on the higher political questions—the only exception in the latter respect has so far been the unfortunate lapse in regard to the position of the British representative at the San Stefano tea party, which even his close adherents deplore—has been completely dispelled by the ministerial and administrative nominations he saw fit to make on the very morrow of the Parliamentary banquet.

Governmental Changes.

His defence of these appointments has been that he wanted to remedy the abuses perpetrated of late, repair the injustice committed against men whose only offence was devotion to the Egyptian cause, and call to the Administration those who are capable and devoted to the good of the country. No one disputes the existence of the abuses to which he refers, or that his nominees have ability, but his selection seems to have been dictated more by consideration of "the injustice committed against them" and the service they can render his cause, than of the fact that they are the men most capable of serving the real interests of the country at the present critical juncture, and it is this aspect that has increased rather than diminished the general feeling of uneasiness with regard to the future.

Perhaps one of the most distressing features of these changes has been the manner in which they were brought to the notice of those whom it was intended to supersede. In the case of the Under Secretary of State for the Interior, admittedy one of the most competent and experienced Egyptians that that Administration has had at its head for many years, the official advice that he had been superseded was deposited on his table, together with other papers, but the first intimation he received was from his own Secretary, who informed him that a telephone message had been received requesting that he should vacate his office forthwith as the newly appointed Under Secretary would be arriving to take over in a quarter of an hour.

Another glaring instance of lack of consideration was the Procureur-General. He was approaching the age-limit, but there was every hope that the extension that has been customary in the case of most of these high positions would be granted him; but the Government refused to give him any idea of its intentions, and it was not until the thirteenth hour, so to speak, that he learned that his services had been dispensed with.

These are illustrations of the present attitude in Egypt, where a man's tenure of office and the treatment he is entitled to depend more on his political creed than on his mental or intellectual capacity for his work.

Effect of British Elections.

The unexpected turn taken by the elections at home—unexpected because at the worst the Zaghloulists anticipated that Labour, in whom they still had hopes, would at least be sufficiently strong to influence the new Government—has visibly disconcerted the Wafd and its supporters. The effect which this change in the political situation in England will have on the attitude towards the Egyptian question of the British Government, and the tenor of the King's Speech at the opening of the Egyptian Parliament on the 15th instant, the preparation of which is giving the Cabinet—or, more strictly speaking, the Wafd—much food for anxious thought, are, apart from the question of the above-mentioned nominations, the main topic of conversations at the moment of writing. Nowhere is there to be found anyone capable of giving a confident forecast on either question, and it is not surprising that uncertainty and uneasiness reign everywhere.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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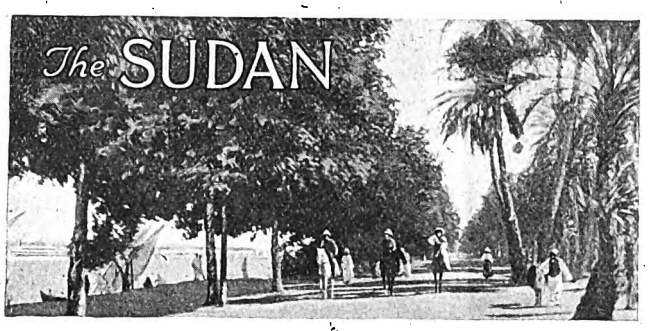

Khartoum, October 21.

The Political Situation.

Contrary to general expectations, the last few days of the Mohammedan Mulid el Nebi festival passed off very quietly, and without the slightest outward display of political feelings. In commenting upon this, the *Sudan Herald* put forward the opinion that the complete breakdown of the MacDonald-Zaghloul "conversations" followed by Mr. MacDonald's White Paper, in which the British attitude was clearly set forth, laid bare the utter foolishness of those recent disturbances, with the natural result that not one pro-Egyptian enthusiast was at all keen to stir up strife which would only redound on his own head.

Police Magisterial Inquiry.

The police magistrate, Mr. Hamilton-Grierson, is at present conducting a court of inquiry into the case of forty-one Egyptian and Sudanese prisoners who were arrested in connection with the recent political disturbances. They are not, however, political prisoners, but are liable to be charged under the Sudan Penal Code for committing offences against the Public Order Ordinance, and particularly the proclamation under the Ordinance which forbade any individual or individuals participating in demonstrations, public assemblies, and so on. The Government had also considered the White Flag Society as one constituting a conspiracy against the Administration, and had therefore caused the arrest of many prominent members and influential abettors of it.

Mr. Wedd, Advocate General, Sudan Government, is acting as prosecution, while Mr. Fry and Mohammed Bey Shadid, an Egyptian, both well-known advocates practising in Khartoum, have been selected to act as prisoners' counsel.

In all probability this inquiry will last a full month, as the Court has a tremendous amount of literature, comprising society news and instructions, proclamations and circulars, to deal with, in addition to which there are the statements of witnesses to be taken, prisoners to be interrogated, and many other things uncommon to the English Court. The prosecution, in the address to the Court, stated that sufficient evidence had been collected to prove that the greater portion of the prisoners had taken an active part in the conspiracy against the Government. He also intimated that a great deal of propaganda of a similar nature had been indulged in since 1919, but nothing in any way open or active had taken place until Midsummer of the present year. If the police magistrate considers the prosecution has proved his case, he will formally charge all, or some, of the prisoners, and commit them for trial by a Governor's Court, over which the Governor of the Province, or a first-class magistrate appointed by him, will preside.

Sudanese Merchants in England.

Six Sudanese merchants who left Port Sudan for England in August have returned to Khartoum greatly impressed by all they have seen, and full of gratitude to those who helped to make their visit a success. Their sightseeing was not confined to London, but extended to Manchester and Liverpool. They visited, among other places, the British Empire Exhibition, the Woking Mohammedan Mosque, the Houses of Parliament, the Tower of London, the Bank of England, Kew Gardens, Hampton Court, Windsor Palace, the *Daily Mail* offices, Liverpool Docks, the Cotton Exchange warehouses, cotton spinning and weaving factories, and one of the Ford Motor Works. Should this visit prove of lasting educational and commercial value, the European business people would be decidedly pleased to hear of others availing themselves of like opportunities next year, particularly if the Government can see their way to assist such an enterprise, thus limiting the drain on private resources, and ultimately strengthening the already firm bond between the two countries.

Death of the Grand Mufti.

The death of Sheikh Ahmed El Tayib Hashim, Grand Mufti of the Sudan, which occurred on September 27, is recorded with much regret, for the loss sustained will be long felt in the Sudan. His father was Sheikh Ahmed Hashim, who himself conducted the preliminary part of his studies, later sending him to Sheikh Mih El Kheir in Berber to finish his religious education, where he was afterwards appointed Kadi of the Berber Court. Sheikh Ahmed was chosen by the Khalifa Abdullhi as a tutor for his son, Sheikh El Din, and he continued in this capacity during the whole of the Khalifa's rule. Following the reoccupation and the institution of government, he held the appointment of Grand Mufti of the Sudan, being the first Sudanese to hold such a high position. This he retained till his death.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, November 3.

The Political Situation.

The formal reopening of Parliament took place on October 15 with the customary ceremony, and evoked the public interest that inevitably attaches in this country to every incident of a political character. The Speech from the Throne—a long document—emphasised the importance of the

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results achieved in the previous session and the considerable amount of work that yet remained to be done, in order to complete the task of the Legislature. In general terms His Majesty expressed the desire of Roumania for peace with her neighbours; he pointed out that since January 1, 1924, the service of the Roumanian Public Debt, both internal and foreign, had been resumed as before the War, and outlined the legislative programme that would be submitted to the Assembly. A noticeable feature in the Speech, and the one that has given rise to much comment, was the Royal silence on the most urgent of all problems exercising the public mind—the economic crisis, which is stifling the country and is growing without apparently engaging such earnest attention as it should on the part of the powers-that-be. This studied blindness places a serviceable weapon in the hands of the Opposition, and worries the Roumanian public, which is intimately concerned in, and disturbed by, the situation.

Everything accordingly points to an agitated Parliamentary session and to the prospect of activity on the part of the Opposition in an attempt to unite its scattered fragments more or less within the time necessary to evolve an elementary programme comprising the fall of the Liberal Ministry and the advent to power, for the purposes of an electoral appeal, of a neutral Government that will be able to guarantee scrupulously fair elections; thereafter, and according to the results obtained, the formation of a Cabinet of a definite political complexion, based on the principle of the representation as far as possible of the wishes of the Roumanian people as shown by a free vote.

The Bratianu Ministry.

The Liberal Party, which came into power two and a-half years ago, has been weakened, according to the view of the Opposition, by internal dissensions. In any case it has no longer been able to preserve that discipline and authority which formerly characterised it. Its chiefs, and, above all, its less important members, display, however, profound confidence in themselves, and proclaim that all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds, and that they will carry out to the end the complete realisation of their legislative reforms.

It will be remembered that the Parliament was made last year a Constituent Assembly, and that the Opposition energetically challenges this status on the ground that it has been illegally accorded. Nevertheless, and in spite of the protests, at first vigorous, of the Opposition, the new Constituent Assembly began to carry out its programme, which includes questions of supreme importance for Roumania, vital domestic problems with a bearing on her international relations. Thus, among others, have been voted laws regulating the exploitation of the sub-soil, which have stirred public opinion abroad, especially in Belgium and Great Britain, both countries with important petroleum interests here. Parliament has now to deal with the application of these economic laws—and this will not be its lightest task—as well as with the investigation of the whole series of laws regulating the commercialisation of certain State enterprises, the organisation of professional guilds, the most lucrative and commercial administration of the railways, river ports and sea ports, and the creation of a free zone in the ports.

In this connection attention may be called to the fact that Poland is insisting on a free zone at Galatz.

An interesting project for the standardisation of cereals is also being discussed—a project put forward by an Englishman based on the Argentine and Canadian systems. The legislative programme also includes the elaboration of a Labour code, in particular the delimitation of the rights of professional associations, the unification of pensions, the reorganisation of indirect taxes (stamps and spirituous liquors), a Press law, the creation of a State Council, and the completion of the reorganisation of education.

Opposition Parties.

Can the Government in power carry out such a formidable programme, or will the Opposition allow effect to be given to it? It is certain that, if the different parties of the Opposition succeed in coming together with sufficient cohesion, the attack on the Ministry will be facilitated by interpellations on the regrettable frauds which have recently been denounced in the Press—the passport scandal, the railway frauds, and the State Fisheries affair. So far, however, M. Jorga's party, the followers of General Avarescu, the National Party, and the Tsaranist (Peasant) Party have not succeeded in making the necessary mutual concessions for the adoption of a common plan of action. It is unfortunate for Roumanian public life that the heads of these groups do not appear as yet to have shown themselves, by the breadth of their ideas, as real leaders, conscious of representing, in the event of honest elections, a majority that might well be formidable. Proceedings in Parliament in the course of the next few days will prove whether, in a desire to attain their end, they are capable of subordinating their personal aspirations, and in order to arrive at a formula of mutual agreement, against which the Liberal Government might well find itself unable to hold its ground.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, November 6.

Reopening of the Sobranye.

Last week the Sobranye began its autumn session, and King Boris performed the opening ceremony in a speech which dealt briefly with the internal and external position of the country. Reference was made to the recently concluded Græco-Bulgarian Convention regarding minorities, while His Majesty touched on the programme of reconstruction which is being slowly though surely pushed forward.

The present session of the Sobranye will be devoted to economic rather than political problems.

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This is somewhat noteworthy, as for the last few years politics have absorbed practically the entire attention of Bulgarian Parliaments. It is, however, high time that the economic and financial questions are tackled, and the present Government are to be congratulated on their decision. First and foremost comes the question of taxation. Under Stambolisky's Agrarian régime the peasantry were barely taxed, and for obvious reasons the present Government has not insisted on any great increase. But in the towns taxation has keen kept up to a fairly high level, and the small shopkeepers, artisans, and especially the professional classes, are feeling the pinch. As M. Tsankoff's Government is commonly, though perhaps erroneously, supposed to represent the townspeople, the above situation is somewhat anomalous. Many protests have been made, and the Government desires keenly to take a part of the burden off the townsfolk. But it is not at all easy to do this, as the State revenue is hardly equal to expenditure. Rather naturally, the first expenditure which the Government had in mind to reduce was charges consequent on the War. These charges include reparation payments, costs of occupation, delivery in kind, and upkeep of Commissions. The first two have been fixed by formal agreements made in March, 1923, and March, 1924; the third is well on its way to completion, while the fourth has been considerably reduced. But, around this fourth question —namely, the upkeep of Commissions—an unfortunate and regrettable situation has arisen. Some people seem to have imagined that the Inter-Allied Commission had so much won the hearts of the Bulgarian nation that it was to be asked to remain for several years! Such an idea was, on the face of it, quite fantastic; but it hardly warranted the attacks which have been recently made on the Commission. To begin with, these attacks, as far as the writer can see, can serve no useful end. They will serve only to put up the backs of the Commission and the respective Governments represented therein. Still, the attacks and criticisms have been made, and one is now waiting to see what line the Commission will adopt. It is composed of approximately four members of each nationality—English, French, and Italian. Its cost, as far as is known, amounts to about £20,000 a year. Presumably the Conference of Ambassadors will shortly take a decision in regard to its future composition. Until then it will be advisable in everyone's interests that the attacks cease.

The English Elections.

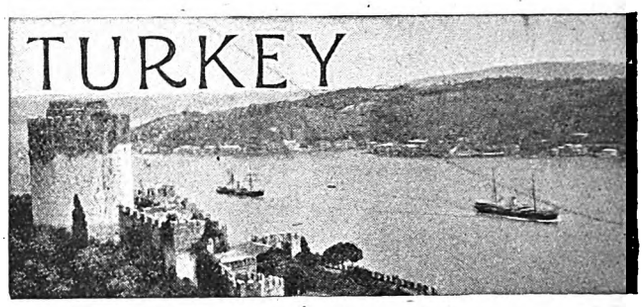
Exceptional interest has been taken in Bulgaria in the English elections, and, on the whole, public opinion rejoices in the Conservatives' victory. The reasons are twofold; first, that England will have a stable Government for the next four years; and, secondly, that the new Government is strongly anti-Bolshevist. As Bulgaria has been in constant collision with the Third International and has met with many intrigues and calumnies, the seizure of the Zenovieff letter has not come as a great surprise. In general, it is considered that England was on the point of going through a course of Soviet propaganda similar to that practised in this country.

News in Brief.

M. Lacroix, the French Minister appointed to Sofia to replace M. Georges Picot, has received another post, and it is not yet known who will succeed M. Picot.

The Bishop of Gibraltar has paid a visit to Sofia.

Sir Edward Boyle, President of the Balkan Committee, and Lady Boyle have left Sofia for Belgrade.



Constantinople, November 3.

Opposition in the Assembly.

The Grand National Assembly has not provided the flare-up that the prognostications of the Press had led one to anticipate. The offensive against the Minister of Exchange and Reconstruction has, up to the moment of writing, resolved itself into a feeble personal attack by the Hoja-deputy of Menteché, which was not pressed to the point of a division on the question of confidence either in the individual Minister or in the Cabinet as a whole. It is true that the People's Party is to meet again in semi-secret session, and that may produce unexpected developments, but it is improbable.

The formation of an official Opposition is proceeding more or less openly. A group, consisting of a few prominent figures like Reouf, Refet Adnan, Janboulat, has ostentatiously ranged itself in a little compact body, and the three Army inspectors, Kiazim Kara Bekir Pasha, Ali Fuad Pasha, and Jevad Pasha have resigned their posts in order to exercise their rights as deputies of the G.N.A. At least two of them are expected to attach themselves to the above-mentioned group. Nevertheless there is every sign that the incipient Opposition group has not made any effort to test its strength against the Government majority, for in the elections for the President and the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly the Government nominees, including the much-harassed Refet Bey, Minister of Reconstruction, were elected by impressive majorities.

The President's Speech.

On November 1 the formal opening of the Assembly was inaugurated by a speech from Mustapha Kemal Pasha, which dealt in a summary manner with the progress achieved during the past year, the present state and needs of the country, and the

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prospects for the future. Apart from the usual general remarks, which are bound to be included in such speeches, the President laid stress upon three points in the following order of importance: the development of railway and road construction, the development of education, and the unsatisfactory arrangements for the reception of the immigrants under the Exchange of Populations scheme. He used very emphatic language concerning the necessity of concentrating upon the extension of the railway and road system, as the principal means of promoting the prosperity of the State, and he hinted very strongly that his policy was to avoid any action which might in the slightest degree hinder the execution of urgent measures for the improvement of communications. He made a hopeful picture of the Republic's foreign relations, and drew special attention to the improvement in their relations with France; he studiously avoided any reference to the Mosul question, except to mention the "well-merited chastisement" of the Nestorians in "our vilayet of Hakkiari."

The speech, taken in its entirety, must be regarded as a statesmanlike utterance, which has hit the nail well and truly on the head as regards several matters of primary importance, and which should give sound, practical guidance to the Assembly.

Arbitrariness in Football.

If the administration of the Republic came within speaking distance of the high-sounding principles on which it professes to be working, all would be well, but, unfortunately, it is not so. The following story will illustrate the kind of thing that is possible in this paradise of republican freedom.

The whole of Constantinople has been looking forward for weeks to *the* football match of the season between the two best clubs, Galata Serai and Fener Bagtche, whose members have been training very hard, as the rivalry of the two clubs is desperately keen. They were to play last Friday for a special challenge cup presented by the Ministry of Public Instruction. Thousands of tickets at high prices had been sold, a banquet after the match had been arranged, and everything, in fact, had been done to make the match an event in Turkish football annals. On the day before the match a telegram from the Government is received by the president of the Turkish Football Federation ordering him to send the Turkish National team to Moscow the following morning—*i.e.*, the morning of the famous match. The National team is composed almost exclusively of players from these two *amateur* teams, so that if the national team went to Moscow, the famous match would have to be scratched at the last moment. Tremendous feeling was caused, especially as the players rightly protested that they were amateurs, and were not to be ordered about in this peremptory fashion; that the match in Constantinople, moreover, was under the direct patronage of the Government, which had offered the cup; that the players were private persons, with their living to earn, and could not go off for weeks on end at twelve hours' notice without risking the loss of their jobs. Nothing availed them; a national team of sorts did actually leave last Friday morning, and the great match was scratched without notice. The inner history of the incident is that the Poles have had an exhibition here and have sent down a football team, and therefore the political balance must be redressed by sending a team to Moscow. It is comforting to see that since this affair the newspapers have not mentioned the word "football" in their columns.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, October 30.

The Ex-King Hussein.

The Council of Ministers has discussed the question of extending to King Hussein an invitation to take up his residence in Iraq. They were not averse from his living in the country, provided that he came as a private individual, not as a monarch, and that he gave an undertaking to refrain from any political activities, especially from such as might react on the internal affairs or status of Iraq. The Ministers wished that he should take up his residence in Basra rather than in the capital. If King Hussein agrees to these conditions it is probable that he may be expected in Basra very shortly.

Kurdistan.

Desultory fighting is still taking place in Kurdistan, and during the course of last week a small force of Sheikh Mahmud's followers succeeded in penetrating into the town of Suleimaniyeh, but were ejected before they had time to inflict any casualties or do any damage. The operations in Kurdistan are being carried out chiefly by the Iraq Army, though it is assisted by the Royal Air Force, of whose efficient and ever-ready co-operation the officers of the Iraq Army speak very highly.

Northern Frontier.

Quietness continues to prevail on the northern frontier. No further hostilities between British and Turkish forces have been reported.

Arabistan.

The Council of Ministers has ordered that in the event of hostilities between the Persian Government and the Sheikh of Mohammerah, Iraq is to adopt an attitude of complete neutrality.

General.

A serious fire occurred last week in the principal street of Baghdad, adjacent to the most congested part of the city. Thanks to the prompt action of the Fire Brigade—one of the most efficient of the public or municipal services of Baghdad—the fire was confined to the one building, though damage amounting to about Rs. 70,000 could not be prevented; this might have been less had not the water supply failed at a critical moment.

Eight hundred officers and men of the Royal Air Force left Baghdad for England on October 16, embarking at Basra in the s.s. Glengorm Castle. Their reliefs have already arrived in the country. It is probably this which gave rise to the rumour that fresh drafts were being sent out from home as

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a result of the disturbances on the northern frontier.

During aerial practices last week at Shaibah, an aeroplane crashed, causing the death of Flying Officer Franklin, and serious injuries to Air Officer Williams.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, October 7.

Communications with Cyprus.

That the island should continue to be deprived of a weekly mail service seems a legitimate ground for complaints which are again making themselves heard. With few interruptions, Cyprus enjoyed weekly steam communication with Egypt and the outer world, and was not long ago hoping for a bi-weekly service. When the War came, communications were dislocated, and an irregular service could cause no grievance. But for many years now there have been but three mails a month. Now that there is some awakening to the need of reviving backward industries, and strong efforts are being made (not unconnected with work at Wembley) to improve both the quality and quantity of island products, and to find—if possible—fresh and expanded markets, it appears to be mistaken parsimony to handicap progress any longer by what is decidedly retrograde policy. If satisfactory arrangements cannot be made with the Khedivial S.S. Company, there are other companies that might be approached.

The Forests.

The outcome of the inquiry into forest fires and means for their prevention by the committee which sat at Mt. Troodos is awaited with no little interest. The Principal Forest Officer, Dr. Unwin, has organised an interesting exhibit of samples of the island timbers and a great variety of articles for agricultural and other uses, manufactured out of the most serviceable of these, which will be on view at his office at Nicosia until November 4. Inquiries were made at Wembley regarding some of these, and, indeed, orders were given for certain articles exhibited there, as to which doubt may exist whether they can be executed on a sufficiently large scale.

The Proposed Bank.

It is hoped that the proposed Agricultural Bank may be opened early in 1925. It is said that the capital will be £300,000, of which the Imperial Ottoman Bank will provide two-thirds and the Government one-third; the bank to be under Government supervision. Advances are to be made at 8 to 9 per cent. to village co-operative societies and individuals.

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General News.

The self-styled "National Council" continues to hold meetings. The new memorial to the Houses of Parliament in London is said to be of considerable length, but it can hardly contain any arguments or claims which have not been submitted many times already. To despatch another petition at the present moment seems not only a waste of time and money, but a very injudicious proceeding, and also to indicate, in spite of professions to the contrary, a want of proper co-operation with the Government, which is needed. Twenty years ago *The Times*, in an article which summed up the situation in Cyprus, concluded with these words:—"It is to be hoped that native members [of Council] will not be led by local prejudices or untimely petulance into any line of action which would alienate in any degree that cordial sympathy which animates all British officials in dealing with the various problems confronting them. . . . It is essential that the leaders of public [*i.e.*, Greek] opinion should co-operate loyally in the work of reconstruction." It cannot be said that hitherto these hopes have been realised, and a want of co-operation is just as harmful now as it was then.

CORRESPONDENCE.

***The columns of* The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.**

MODERN INDIAN ART FOR BRITISH GALLERIES.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—It has been thought that the gathering together for the first time in this country, at the British Empire Exhibition, of a collection of modern Indian paintings provides a fortunate opportunity of acquiring works representative of the leading schools of modern Indian art for permanent exhibition here in the principal Art Institutions. This step would also serve to reflect the growing interest in Indian art which is being shown in England.

It is estimated that a suitable representative collection of these paintings can be secured at an outlay of about £200. The selection of the paintings will be in the hands of a sub-committee of the India Society, which would include Sir Thomas Arnold, Mr. Laurence Binyon, Mr. E. B. Havell, and Professor Rothenstein.

An appeal for the requisite funds is necessary, and subscriptions would be gratefully received by the Hon Treasurer at the office of the India Society, 3, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

If desired, any subscription can be applied for the purchase of one or more paintings to bear an inscription indicating the name of the donor.—We are, etc.,

Hercules Read, President.
Carmichael, Chairman of Committee.
Francis Younghusband.
E. B. Havell.

3, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

THE CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

The next two meetings of this Society, which take place at 5 p.m. at the Royal United Service Institution, are to be on November 14 and November 21 respectively. At the first Major D. McCallum will lecture upon "The Discovery and Development of the New Land Route to the East," and at the second the Right Hon. Lord Thomson will speak on "My Impressions of a Tour in Iraq."

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

November 13, 1924 (New Style).
October 31, 1924 (Old Style).
Rabia' II, 15, 1343 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Marheshvan 16, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Prince Nicholas of Roumania, who was recently gazetted sub-lieutenant, has rejoined H.M.S. Benbow at Malta.

The Hon. Alice Douglas Pennant left London on November 6 to visit General Lord Rawlinson and Lady Rawlinson in India.

The Roumanian Minister and Madame Titulesco are staying at Cap Ferrat. They have arranged to return to London next Saturday (November 15).

Yesterday Dr. M. D. Eder addressed the West London Zionist Association at Unity Hall, Quex Road, Kilburn, N.W.6, on "Labour Conditions in Palestine."

Sir Reginald Mant, upon his appointment as a member of the Council of India, had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on November 8.

General Sir Edmund Barrow had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace last Thursday upon relinquishing his appointment as a member of the Council of India.

The Chief of the C.I.D. Assam Police, India, Mr. W. J. H. Ballentine, who is in England in order to study the administration of justice in the various courts of law, was present on November 5 at London Sessions.

The Roumanian Consul-General in London and Madame Beza held a reception at 49, Roland Gardens, last Thursday evening, for M. Jules Romains, the French writer, to meet the members of the P.E.N. Club.

The second of a series of lectures on the art and science of ancient Egypt was given last Tuesday evening at the Royal Society, Burlington House, by Mr. A. M. Blackman, D.Litt., entitled, "Temple Ceremonial."

Mme. Gavrilovitch, who left London last Saturday for Serbia, desires to express her warm thanks for the numerous messages of sympathy which have reached her. She hopes to answer them individually at a later date.

General the Lord Rawlinson (Commander-in-Chief, India), who had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on November 4, left Marseilles last Thursday for Bombay in the P. and O. steamer Kaisar-i-Hind.

Among the passengers by the P. and O. special train which left London on November 6 to connect at Marseilles with the steamship Kaisar-i-Hind were Sir Dinshaw and Lady Petit, Sir Thomas Catto, Sir Trevredyn Wynne, Sir John and Lady Cargill, Lady Burnett, Sir David Yule, Lady Miller, Sir Edgar Holberton, the Hon. Kenneth Mackay, and Sir Alexander Murray. General Sir Charles and Lady Magniac, Sir Dhunjibhoy and Lady Bomanji, Sir Dorab and Lady Tata, and Sir Logie Watson joined the Kaisar-i-Hind at Marseilles, and the Maharaja and Maharani Rajendra Bahadur of Jind, and Sir R. Waley Cohen at Port Said.

General Sir Havelock Hudson (upon his appointment as a member of the Council of India) and Brigadier-General the Hon. Charles Bruce (upon his return from the Mount Everest Expedition) had the honour of being received by His Majesty on November 5.

The marriage has been arranged, and will take place in London in the early spring, of M. Ivan Stancioff, only son of M. Dimitri Stancioff, formerly Bulgarian Minister in London, and of Mme. Stancioff, *née* Comtesse de Grenaud, to Miss Marion Mitchell, only daughter of Mrs. James Mitchell, of 46, Mount Street, London.

The next meeting of the Near and Middle East Association will take place, by kind permission of Mrs. James Conchie, on November 18, at 8.30 p.m., at 27, Great Cumberland Place, W.1, when the subject, "The Problem of Georgia," will be discussed. The speakers are to include Prince Michel Soumbatoff, Mr. W. E. D. Allen, and Mr. A. Safrastian.

HONOURS, APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Sir Hugh Clifford's appointment as Governor of Ceylon is gazetted under date November 3.

The Bhaonagar Medal at Cambridge University has been awarded to P. Rajagopalan (Queens'), who is placed fourth among the Indian Civil probationers in the final list.

Sir Elliot Graham Colvin, K.C.S.I., formerly head of the Inter-Allied Commission at Sofia, has been appointed a Governor of the Charterhouse, in place of the late Bishop Gibson.

A supplement to the *London Gazette* announces that the King has been pleased to confer the following honours:—

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1924.

PEACEMAKERS IN ARABIA.

Despite the obscurity that still enshrouds the general situation in Arabia, one thing emerges as a practical certainty: the rule of the Hashimite family in the Hejaz approaches its end. The artificial nature of Hussein's sway has been proved up to the hilt, and the pillars of his edifice, so expensively constructed by Great Britain, have been ruthlessly swept away by Ibn Saoud and his Ikhwan. Nor was any Samson's strength needed to oust this greedy hoarder. With Hussein's career, however, which appears likely to peter out in Basra, we are not now concerned. He can be written down finally as one of the mistakes of British Middle Eastern policy, and has served to prove to us unforgettably, as we may hope, how futile it is in Arabia to put all one's money on one horse. But it is impossible at this moment to withhold sympathy from King Ali, a fine Arab, according to all estimates, who is at this juncture in the direst straits on account only of his father's misdeeds. There is no mistaking Ibn Saoud's intention to drive the Hashimite family, root and branch, from the Hejaz, and, although it has been recently reported that a portion of the great Harb tribe, whose allegiance, incidentally, has never been very constant, is willing to help the King to defend Jeddah, the welcome which this Wahhabi intention has been received by the inhabitants of the Hejaz in general is manifest. It is at once a noble and an ignoble story, for it may be that the heights of Taif, where Ali fought his bravest battle, will appear in the history of Arabia as the river Sakharia appeared in Turkish history, and as far as can be foreseen the defeated in each case will suffer the same fate—dispersion or impulsion into the sea. Ibn Saoud virtually holds the peninsula in his hands; he has but to say "Come," and, whether it is from Egypt, or the Yemen, or Koweit, or Bahrain, or Muscat, or Iraq, or Persia, he cometh. And similarly with those to whom he says "Go." King Ali is almost without a friend to-day, and his demission must be taken for granted. It is a pity, for there is undoubtedly work for this able man (now in weak health) to do in the Arab world; but whither he will go and his place in the Arab polity of the future are secrets in the keeping of to-morrow. Arabia, however, never provided any exception to the rule that the sins of the fathers shall be visited on the children.

Now it might be said that this internecine strife between King Ali and Ibn Saoud is the Arabs' own affair, that such things have occurred before without the heavens' falling, and that, therefore, the less interest that Europe takes in the matter the better proof of its discretion and sense of values. This, however, would be only a partially correct judgment. In the peculiar circumstances in which the Moslem world is placed to-day, thanks to the action of Angora in ridding Turkey of the responsibilities of the Khalifate, the administration of the Holy Places concerns Mohammedans all over the globe very closely. Upon the terms of the strife between the Nejd and the Hejaz depend the governance of the Holy City and the future welfare of the *hajis*. And that is why attempts are being made from outside Arabia to intervene in this quarrel. With such attempts, which have, in fact, a religious or spiritual reason, it is, of course, not for us to involve ourselves, except in the rôle of impassive spectators who will accept whatever the world of Islam in its wisdom shall decide. It is, therefore, remotely, so to speak, that we observe the application by the Central Khilafat Committee to the Government of India for a permit to visit the Nejd and the Hejaz with the object of establishing peace between the two Arab States. With the same dispassionate gaze we watch the proposed visit to Mecca of Sidi Ahmed es-Senussi, remembering the while the essential connection between the Wahhabites and the Senussi brotherhoods. The representatives of these two bodies of Moslem thought are on a legitimate purpose, and may in a true sense turn out to be peacemakers. But it is in a different category that we must place the extravaganza of Mr. St. John Philby, who is said to have received a message from King Ali—at whose prompting we are left to guess—to go over to Jeddah and save whatever there is to be saved. What the late Adviser to the Government of Transjordan can possibly accomplish without any kind of British mandate is not very clear. In our view, the only aspect of this Arabian imbroglio that now concerns this country is the religious aspect; with the political formations consequent upon it we can rightly play no constructive part. Such non-interference with Arab affairs, nevertheless, does not appeal to Mr. St. John Philby, who was lately in favour of leaving, except from a purely advisory point of view, the Arabs all to themselves. He has betaken himself, like an heroic *deus ex machinâ*, and with the secrecy that provides excellent copy for the sensational Press, even if it serves no other purpose, to Jeddah. How much farther than that undesirable spot he will be able to get remains to be seen, but the whole adventure appears to us to smack of peacemongering rather than of peacemaking.

It will be noted that all the Moslem visitors to Mecca, actual or proposed, after the Wahhabi occupation of the Holy City, are touched with an anti-British leaning. (We do not include in these Shereef Ali Haidar, of whose appointment to the Emirate of Mecca no confirmation has yet been received.) This was, perhaps, inevitable. But we may take the opportunity of pointing out one or two things, about which misapprehensions have been entertained both in our own Press and abroad. The Wahhabite invasion was not connived at by the British Government, true as it may be that Ibn Saoud, before giving the order for the submergence of Hussein's pretensions, had sounded the opinion of India. Just as the 70,000,000 of Indian Moslems helped the Kemalist movement, they assisted with all moral support the demission of the British-subsidised Guardian of the Holy Places, who not only robbed the pilgrims shamefully, but even omitted to protect them. And it is probably an error to imagine, as some have done, that Turkey, which has been harbouring Sheikh Ahmed of the Senussi, is still interested in the ownership of the Holy Places. Nationalist Turkey has washed her hands for good and all of her old Arab provinces, and there can be little doubt that the administration of the Hejaz, whatever form it take, will be under Arab supervision. Lastly, it is not to be feared that Ibn Saoud, great and statesmanlike ruler though he undoubtedly is, is another Tamerlane. He may succeed in extending his effective sway from sea to sea, but he will go no further than the Peninsula. If he chooses to become Khalif, or, at least, overlord of the Holy

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Places, there is no reason to suppose that the *hajis* will return to their homes any richer than Hussein left them, although it is very probable that he would protect them. Against British mandated territory he could do nothing, and any sympathy between his fanatical tribesmen and the inhabitants of Syria, Palestine, Transjordan, or Iraq it is difficult to conceive. In his own peninsula he may erect a mighty kingdom, but outside his personal dominions repercussions are scarcely to be expected. It is known that for long he has wanted peace and a settled boundary to the lands under his control, but how he chooses to achieve this is now more than ever his own affair. At the moment he is acting in a most cautious and praiseworthy way, and unless he is prevented by interfering persons from his large purpose of the consolidation of an Arab Confederation, he may make for himself one of the greatest names in all the history of Islam. But it will be a glory of Islam confined to the land of its birth: there cannot conceivably come again any Ommeyads or Abbasids. For our time, at any rate, Damascus and Baghdad are to shine rather with Western than with Eastern splendour.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE GATEWAY OF PALESTINE.

"THE GATEWAY OF PALESTINE: A HISTORY OF JAFFA." By S. Tolkowsky. With numerous Illustrations. (London: George Routledge. 10s. 6d. net.)

(By Vice-Admiral PHILIP DUMAS, C.B., C.V.O.)

This is not only a very readable but extraordinarily instructive book, which can be highly recommended to all students of the Holy Land and its problems. It shows a most amazing industry and erudition, and the great pity is that the materials for a more actual history of the vicissitudes of Jaffa in particular are, apparently, not forthcoming, so that the book becomes, in fact, largely a history of the Holy Land and of its relations with foreign powers and extraneous peoples.

From this it follows that almost the only fault that can be found is that a more adequate map has not been provided, for the real inwardness of the eventful history of Jaffa, its occasional prosperity, constant destruction and as frequent rebuilding, lies in the fact that it lay at a salient point of one of the great trade routes of the ancient world, while in early days, when coasting was largely perforce followed, other equally if not more important trade routes necessarily passed within but a few miles. Consequently, it is the demarcation of these trade routes which are required, and a map, showing them, to such places as Italy, the Dardanelles, Crete, Cyprus, Jerusalem, and Egypt, may, it is hoped, be provided in subsequent editions.

In this connection it is to be regretted that more attention has not been paid to the facts of ancient sea-borne trade and the salient points on the trade routes of the ancient world. Take Troy, for instance, which covered the trade routes to the Black Sea, and so commanded the supply of copper, tin and bronze. Is it really credible to any but a poet that the whole of the great local fighting forces of the day should have collected at one of the stormiest and most detestable places in the world, and there by land and sea have attacked the probably most strongly defended cities of the world for over ten years to re-capture a grandmother? The matter has only to be stated in this form to make it clear why some seven or more superimposed cities are to be found on this site, why all were strongly defended, and all were destroyed.

In dealing with the history of Jaffa, then, it will be found that it entails somewhat of a running commentary on that of Egypt and of the Hittite, Sumerian, and Assyrian Empires, although the author would appear to be unconscious of the reason.

Superimposed were, of course, the special and unhappy attentions paid to Jaffa by all those potentates and powers whose selfish interests lay in the possession of an easy and convenient access to Jerusalem and the closing scenes of the life and death of our Lord. It is almost a pity that a chronological table has not been provided showing the additional vicissitudes of the unfortunate city due to the jealousies and greed of its various momentary owners, and it is certain that a very fascinating book could be written on the activities of the Courts of Jaffa in particular.

One of the most interesting points brought out is the frequent and rapid rise of the city to great prosperity (as to-day and in the early days of the Philistines). This rise has coincided with local conditions of peace, which always implied that a strong and capable power was in the ascendancy. By the way, what is the author's authority for speaking of "the native legends of the Philistines in their Cretan and Carian homes" on page 27? Surely this is pure supposition!

Equally horrifying but interesting are the frequent accounts of shocking massacres when no one strong power was in possession, as it is plain that few places are less desirable for residence than the terminal ports of a trade or pilgrim route unless adequate sea and land power exists to protect them. Therefore, when considering the future of such ports as Jaffa and Jeddah, it is highly desirable to bear this fact in mind, for it cannot be too clearly realised that now, as at any time during the past five thousand years, every possible element for discord and its dreadful *sequelæ* exists within the near neighbourhoods. If these facts are not taken into consideration, and these ports are allowed to fall into the weak and uncertain hands of Turkey, Egypt or Arabia, nothing can be more certain than that frightful massacres and horrible cruelties, as in the days of Richard Cœur de Lion and Napoleon, will recur in the future.

In connection with Cœur de Lion, perhaps the most delightful, and certainly the most unexpected, fact brought out within the pages of this book is that King Richard was inspired to issue an order that no one on the Crusade was to be permitted to take any female with him except a washerwoman, against whom there could be no suspicion! Oh, happy, halcyon days of yore, when washerwomen were above suspicion! Surely the White Knight requires to be re-armed with a washing-tub and clothes-line and a bundle of pegs. There may be, however, some connection with the fact, as stated on p. 125, that Jaffa exported soap to Europe, and possibly King Richard's knights may have from that cause alone extended such marked favour to laundresses.

That the German has hardly changed his spots is shown on p. 115, where it is stated that the Teuton crusaders, while celebrating the Feast of St. Martin with an orgy of drunkenness and debauchery, were surprised by the Moslems, and massacred. The book is, however, full of isolated facts which call for comment, and one can only recommend that it be read, and deductions drawn. On the whole, it is a sad history of the appalling wickedness, jealousies and cruelties of mankind, and the main deduction is the frightful danger to which the inhabitants of a desirable port of entry are exposed unless properly defended by a really capable power. That is the lesson of

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its history, and it cannot be too strongly impressed upon the small powers and interests who may be or are intriguing to hold Jaffa the beautiful—and it is beautiful—in the future.

Mr. Tolkowski, who has, unfortunately, drawn no inferences himself except by implication, has written a really interesting book, and is to be sincerely congratulated upon it. So much knowledge and erudition are shown in it that one can only hope that he may extend his energies and powers of research in the early future to a history of the Holy Land in general and of Jerusalem in particular. Here, again, lessons of moment are to be deduced as to the future of this smiling land, and to save a deluge of tears it would be well if all the countries interested were to study them.

TRUTH AND BEAUTY.

"THE PAGEANT OF GREECE." By R. W. Livingstone. (Oxford University Press. 6s. 6d. net.)

Mr. Livingstone, from the fullness of his knowledge and love of ancient Greece, has compiled this anthology to add to the happiness of those of us who are not Greek scholars. We are grateful for the care and skill with which he has chosen his extracts. He gives examples of many writers of different periods, and his headings include, amongst others, History, Philosophy, Comedy, Tragedy, Lyric Poetry, and Science. It is a great thing to have gathered so much beauty into one little book. When we have read it we cannot fail to have that clearer understanding of the Greek spirit, which Mr. Livingstone hopes to give; and we understand the words of his introduction: "I have laid special stress on Greek 'truthfulness.' It is the parent, not only of Greek science and philosophy, which are the children of a desire to see things in themselves as they are, and not as the seer wishes them to be, but also, in part, of Greek literature, where truth is never sacrificed to beauty or sentiment or emotion, and where neither the light nor the shade on the canvas of life is ignored, but both are depicted with an even-handed justice. It is the lesson which Europe began at the Renaissance to relearn from Greece, and which she has been perfecting ever since."

J. B. Ainslie.

THE JUNGLE BOOKS.

"THE TWO JUNGLE BOOKS." By Rudyard Kipling. (London: Macmillan and Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

We can imagine no more delightful present, at the price, than this new edition of Mr. Rudyard Kipling's two "Jungle Books" in one volume. It has been very pleasingly produced, printed beautifully and on good paper; and it retains the illustrations of J. Lockwood Kipling and W. H. Drake. There is little need here to expatiate on the fact that all the tales, from "Mowghli's Brothers" to "Her Majesty's Servants," are of the finest stuff, but to have all under one cover, so to speak, Bagheera and Baloo and Akela and Hathi and Rikki-Tikki-Tavi and Kala Nag and the baggage-camel of the 39th Native Infantry and the rest, is something to be sought eagerly this Christmas by all intelligent children and adults not yet become olympian.

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THE "BOMBAY LABOUR GAZETTE."

The new issue of the Bombay *Labour Gazette*, the organ of the provincial Labour office, appears in a greatly improved form. The *Gazette* has always been indispensable to serious students of industrial questions, but hitherto it has been decidedly cumbrous, and not too attractive to readers, with inconveniently large pages, over-displayed statistics, and too much waste space in the diagrams. These defects have now been remedied, and in its new form the *Gazette* is as pleasant as it is useful.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Eva Chenholm." By H. Gascoigne Hart. (London: Heath Cranton. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The War Effort of New Zealand." Edited by Lt. H. T. B. Drew. (New Zealand: Whitcombe and Toms, Ltd.)

"The Comitadji Question in Southern Serbia." By R. A. Reiss, D.Sc. (London: Hazell, Watson, and Viney, Ltd.)

"Songs of a Desert Optimist: Poems of Burma." By J. M. Symns. (London: Nisbet and Co., Ltd. 4s. 6d. net.)

"Men and Thought in Ancient India." By Radhakumud Mookerji, M.A., Ph.D. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Wonder Book of the Wild: The Romance of Exploration." Edited by Harry Golding, F.R.G.S. With 12 plates in colour. (London: Ward, Lock, and Co., Ltd. 6s. net.)

"Persian Literature in Modern Times. A.D. 1500-1924." By Professor E. G. Browne. (Cambridge University Press. 35s. net.)

"In the Land of the Golden Fleece." By Odette Keun. (London: The Bodley Head. 7s. 6d. net).

"Transliteration of Slavonic." (Abridged from the Proceedings of the British Academy, Vol. VIII.) (London: Humphrey Milford. 6d. net.)

"The Vaulted Tombs of Mesara": An Account of Some Early Cemeteries of Southern Crete. By Stéphanos Xanthoudides, Ph.D. Translated by J. P. Droop, M.A. With a preface by Sir Arthur Evans, F.R.S., etc. (London: Hodder and Stoughton, Ltd. £3 3s. net.)

"Adventures in Tripoli: A Doctor in the Desert." By Ernest H. Griffin, D.S.O., M.C. With 64 illustrations. (London: Philip Allan and Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Ronald Burrows: A Memoir." By George Glasgow. With a Foreword by M. Venizelos. (London: Nisbet and Co. 15s. net.)

"Twice Fifty Years of Europe." By Percy Ashley. (London: W. Collins and Sons and Co., Ltd. 15s. net.)

"The Khilafet," by Professor Mohammad Baraktullah (Maulavie). (London: Luzac and Co. 2s. 6d.)

"Indian Railways." By K. V. Iyer. India of To-day Series. Volume VII. (London: Humphrey Milford. 3s. net.)

"The Irrational Knot." By Bernard Shaw. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"An Unsocial Socialist." By Bernard Shaw. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Love Among the Artists." By Bernard Shaw. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Racial Realities in Europe." By Lothrop Stoddard. (London: Charles Scribner's Sons. 12s. 6d. net.)

"In Southern Seas: Wanderings of a Naturalist." By W. Ramsay Smith, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.Edin. (London: John Murray. 16s. net.) Illustrated.

"The Law of Apostasy in Islam." By Samuel M. Zwemer, D.D., F.R.G.S. (London: Marshall Bros. 6s. net.)

"D'Angora à Lausanne: Les Etapes d'une Déchéance. Avec trois cartes. By Comte R. de Gontant-Biron et L. Le Révérend. (Paris: Plon-Nourrit et Cie. 10 fr.)

"Youth and the East: An Unconventional Autobiography." By Edmund Candler. (London: Wm. Blackwood and Sons. 15s. net.)

"Greater France in Africa." By William M. Sloane. (London: Charles Scribner's Sons. 12s. 6d. net.)

"The Marriage of Yussuf Khan." By Frank Heller. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Eastward." By Louis Couperus. With thirty-seven illustrations. Translated by J. Menzies-Wilson and C. C. Crispin. (London: Hurst and Blackett, Ltd. 18s. net.)

"Napoleon: An Outline." By Brig.-General Colin R. Ballard, C.B., C.M.G. With twenty-four sketch maps. (London: Duckworth and Co. 18s. net.)

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ZIONIST MOVEMENT APPEAL.

A meeting last week was arranged at the Kingsway Hall, under the auspices of the English Zionist Federation, for the purpose of hearing an address by Dr. Weizmann, who has just returned from Palestine, and of promoting the Palestine Foundation Fund. It was a crowded and very enthusiastic audience over which Mr. Philip Guedalla presided. Messages of good will were first read from various people, notably Lord Balfour, Viscount Cecil, and Sir Alfred Mond.

With the general situation in Palestine Dr. Weizmann declared himself well satisfied, and that, given the necessary sacrifice by Jews themselves, the Jewish National Home could be taken as established. What was mainly required to this end was a concerted and well-directed effort, and he appealed particularly to the Jews of England to do their share in the work of reconstruction.

It has since been announced that Dr. Weizmann's encouraging report on the progress being made in Palestine has given a great fillip to the campaign on behalf of the Palestine Foundation Fund now being conducted in this country. Several thousand pounds have already been raised in London, and arrangements are in progress for active propaganda among the Jewish communities throughout the country. A large number of meetings are being arranged. Sir Alfred Mond, M.P., is President of the Committee organising the campaign, which is under the direction of Dr. Alexander Goldstein, who recently raised £75,000 in South Africa and Rhodesia.

BRITISH SCHOOL AT ATHENS.

The annual meeting of the British School at Athens was held in London on October 28 at Burlington House. Mr. V. W. Yorke, the treasurer, drew attention to a serious financial position, due to reduced income, increased expenditure, and the immediate need of £1,000 for building.

The Provost of Eton, the Chairman, said the little land of Greece was the ultimate source of all that was of most value in the achievements of man. He indicated directions for research, particularly in respect of monastic manuscripts, throwing light on Greek influence on modern civilisation.

Mr. A. M. Woodward, the Director, described the interesting results of excavations in Sparta, mainly on the site of the theatre and Acropolis. He pointed out that the Byzantines had used the masonry of the theatre for building a settlement on its site. Much of the stage and details of the Roman theatre had been disclosed, and it was hoped to find remains of the Greek theatre beneath the Roman work.

THE PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

We read with dismay in the *Quarterly Statement* (October) of the Palestine Exploration Fund that there is serious danger that the work of excavation now proceeding on the Eastern Hill of Jerusalem may have shortly to cease owing to lack of funds. Another £2,500, and the work, which promises already most interesting results, could continue. The risk of the undertaking falling into other hands ought to be as widely known as possible; how fascinating the excavation is and what progress has been made can be seen in an article in this *Statement* by the Rev. J. Garrow Duncan.

The Paris *Journal Officiel* announces the appointment of M. de Ledoux, second-class Consul at Fiume, to be French Consul-General at Liverpool and Manchester, vice M. Goiran, who has been made Consul-General at Johannesburg.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The death is announced from Warsaw of M. Vitold Jodko, formerly Polish Minister at Constantinople.

Mr. Augustus Jay, the United States Minister to Roumania, and Mrs. Jay arrived in Bucharest last Sunday.

Lord Goschen, Governor of Madras, and Lady Goschen, left last week on a visit to the Viceroy and Lady Reading at Delhi.

The work of tracing the frontier between Roumania and Czechoslovakia, states a message from Bucharest, has been finally concluded.

M. Fauquel, Counsellor at the Brussels Court of Appeal, is proceeding to Turkey to take up the post of legal adviser to the Angora Government.

Mr. C. F. J. Galloway, B.Sc., F.R.G.S., delivered an illustrated lecture on "A Trip in North-West Persia" at the Jewish Institute, Mulberry Street, E.1, on November 1.

Mr. F. J. Devar, a Bombay scoutmaster, who is making a world tour on his bicycle, and who left Bombay last January, expects to reach London at the beginning of January.

The Viceroy, as Chief Scout in India, has received from Lieut.-General Sir Robert Baden-Powell a warm appreciation of the behaviour of the Indian Contingent at the Imperial Jamboree at Wembley.

Thirteen persons were wounded, states the *Morning Post* Athens correspondent, in a conflict which occurred near Seres between local peasants and refugees. Similar affrays have taken place near Athens.

A rare unused stamp of Roumania, the 81 parale, was sold recently for £470 in Mr. H. R. Harmer's sale rooms in Bond Street. This is the highest price ever obtained for a copy of this stamp in London.

Sir William Godsell, of Grosvenor Avenue, Carshalton, Surrey, formerly auditor of the India Office, who died on September 27, aged eighty-six, left estate of the gross value of £2,604, with net personalty £2,417.

According to *The Times* Cairo correspondent, important changes in the Egyptian Legations abroad are under consideration, but will not be announced until after the return from Paris of Wassif Pasha Ghali, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

King Boris was present on October 29 at the funeral in Sofia of General Tocheff, who commanded the 1st Sofia Division in the Bulgarian Third Army during the First Balkan War at the victory of Kirk Kilisse on October 23 and 24, 1912.

It is reported that King Ali has refused to permit Sheikh Sidi-es-Senussi to proceed through Jeddah or Medina to Mecca on the ground that the Sheikh is an agent of the Angora Government and the permission would be detrimental to Hashimite interests.

Sir William Goodenough Hayter, of the Ministry of Justice, Cairo, Egypt, and of Kingsgate Street, Winchester, barrister-at-law, legal adviser to the Egyptian Government and to the British Residency in Cairo, left estate of the gross value of £11,282, with net personalty £11,127.

The Civil Service Commissioners announce that it has been decided that the age limits of twenty-one to twenty-four on August 1 of the year in which thecompetition is held will be retained for the open competitive examinations to be held in London in 1925 and 1926 for appointment to the India Civil Service.

A report on the use of opium in India, prepared by the National Christian Council of India, has been issued as a small book. The evidence has been given by members of the I.M.S., missionary doctors, and Indian private practitioners. It may be obtained from the International Missionary Council, 2, Eaton Gate, S.W.1.

The Queen of Rumania was godmother to the infant daughter of Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Millington Drake, who was christened recently in the Church of the Resurrection, Brussels, by the Bishop of Kensington, and the Rev. C. R. Hughes, Chaplain to the British Embassy. The child was named Marie Regina, and the other sponsors were the Hon. Elsie Mackay, Mrs. Roderick Ponsonby, and Sir Reginald Tower.

When visiting the Maharaja of Patiala during his Indian tour the Prince of Wales speared a fine boar, which was mounted by the taxidermy department of the State, and has been one of the outstanding features of the exhibition of the sporting trophies in the Patiala Court of the Indian Pavilion at Wembley. The Prince of Wales has accepted the Maharaja's gift of the boar, and last Friday afternoon the officer in charge of the Patiala Court, Sirdar Wazir Chand, attended at St. James's Palace to make the presentation.

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MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR M. MICHEL GAVRILOVITCH.

Requiem Mass was sung at the Russian Church of St. Philip, Buckingham Palace Road, last Thursday, for M. Michel Gavrilovitch, Minister for the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. Fathers J. Lelinkhin, B. Timotheieff, and C. Vesselovsky officiated at the service, the Vedroff Quartette rendering the musical portions, unaccompanied. The King was represented at the service by Earl de la Warr, and the Duke of York by Lieutenant Colin Buist, R.N., while Sir William Tyrrell represented the Foreign Office. Members of the late Minister's family present included Mme. Gavrilovitch (widow), M. Dmitri Gavrilovitch (son), and Mlle. Anka Gavrilovitch (daughter).

Those who attended the service included:—M. Todorovitch, Chargé d'Affaires at the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, the Greek, Bulgarian, Persian, Turkish, Albanian, and Egyptian Ministers, Miss Gertrude Holt (representing the Serbian Red Cross Society), the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires with the Military Attaché, Colonel Antonesco, Mr. Athelstan Johnston (former British Chargé d'Affaires in Belgrade), Sir Charles des Graz, Admiral Sir Ernest Troubridge, Miss Hanbury-Williams (representing Lady Hanbury-Williams), Mahmoud Sabet Bey, the Afghan Chargé d'Affaires, General Sir George Milnes, M. Stoyanovitch, the Turkish Consul-General, M. J. Pavlovitch, M. C. Banat, Mrs. St. Clair Stobart and Mr. Stobart Greenhalgh, and Mr. Featherstone Witty (President of the Consular Corps at Bristol).

Professor and Mrs. Seton Watson, Mr. and Mrs. James Berry, M. Petroff-Tchomakoff, Mrs. B. Tufnell, Mlle. Damianovitch, M. and Mme. Myatovitch, M. Collas, Mrs. Robert Frank (Serbian Red Cross), Mr. and Mrs. Harold Williams, Captain E. F. Harvey, Mr. O. Pelly Dick (Department of Overseas Trade, Foreign Office), M. A. Lissevitch, Mr. Neville Mayman, the Serbian Consul in Sydney, the Rev. R. M. French (general secretary, Anglican and Eastern Churches Association), and Mr. Wickham Steed.

M. and Mme. V. Andjekovitch, Colonel G. Ostovitch, Dr. Subotitch, M. and Mme. Smodlaka, Dr. Tanascovitch, M. and Mme. Yertitch, M. Marmovitch (secretary of the Serbian Legation in Paris), Mr. F. E. F. Adam, Mr. J. B. Monck, Mr. Jeffery (representing Sir Edward Boyle), the Dowager Lady Boyle, Mr. H. Charles Woods, Mme. Slavka Grouitch (wife of the former Serbian Minister), the Hon. Harold Nicolson, Mr. Lampson, Mr. E. A. Walker, and Mr. J. H. F. McEwen (the Foreign Office). The coffin remained in St. Philip's Church until last Saturday, when it was conveyed to Belgrade for interment.

OBITUARY.

We regret to learn of the death, on October 23, at Sofia, of M. M. I. Momtchiloff, the greatly respected head of the Balkan Insurance Co. and other important Bulgarian commercial enterprises. He was only 62 years old, but had secured a high place among the most enlightened and progressive men of his country. He will be hard to replace.

Major-General Sir Robert Findlay Henderson, K.C.M.G., C.B., formerly of the Army Medical Service, and an old Rugby International, died recently at the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, aged 65. He saw much service, including campaigns in the Sudan, in Burma, and on the North-West Frontier.

The death occurred in Chicago on October 28 of Mr. James Berwick Forgan, aged 72. Mr. Forgan, who was chairman of the board of directors of the First National Bank and the First Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago, was decorated with the Order of St. Sava in recognition of his activities on behalf of the Serbians during the War.

Mr. Edward Bell, Chargé d'Affaires of the American Legation at Peking, died there on October 28. After several years of foreign travel Mr. Bell, who was born in New York on August 9, 1882, joined the American Consular Service in Egypt in 1909. Among other consular appointments, Mr. Bell held the Secretaryship of the Legation at Teheran in 1911 for a short period.

Mr. Harry Lionel Churchill, C.M.G., F.R.G.S., British Consul-General at Genoa, whose death occurred on November 5, held Consular appointments at, among other places, Teheran and Resht. Mr. Churchill married, in 1892, a daughter of the late Sir Joseph Tholozau, K.C.B., Physician-in-Chief for forty years to the Shah, Nasr-ed-Din.

The death occurred on November 7 of Sir Thomas Graham Jackson, R.A. Gaining most of his renown as an architect of scholastic institutions, he nevertheless made a name for himself as a lettered traveller. Among his publications were: "Dalmatia, the Quarnero, and Istria," "Byzantine and Romanesque Architecture," and "Memories of Travel," the last of which was reviewed in The Near East last year.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Empire Exhibition.

As I anticipated, it is now practically certain that the British Empire Exhibition will be in progress again next year. Speaking at the Lord Mayor's banquet at the Guildhall last night, Mr. Baldwin, after paying a tribute to the invaluable part played by the Exhibition in stimulating inter-Imperial trade and in expanding knowledge of the British Empire among all classes, said that the Government did not intend that this great enterprise should come to an untimely end. He declared that, provided the Dominions and the great industries of this country are prepared to do their share, Parliament would be asked for a guarantee to enable the Exhibition to continue. As in the changed conditions there is not likely to be any doubt as to the support of the Dominions and the leading industries here, we may therefore take it for granted that those who developed the Wembley habit this summer will be able to indulge it again in 1925.

Lack of Enterprise.

Last month an international motor exhibition was held in Zagreb, but while Italian, French, Austrian, German, American, Czecho-Slovak, and Belgian cars were exhibited, Great Britain was only represented by one or two firms in the motor-cycle and accessories sections. It is true that Yugoslavia at the moment can provide only a small market for motors, but as the figures given in these columns recently show, the Balkan markets for motors are steadily growing, and, while in present circumstances the prospects of immediate business must naturally be the main consideration of British firms, it is not less incumbent on them on that account to keep an eye on the future, and if they are to develop satisfactory relations with Yugoslavia, it is obviously essential that no undue advantage should be given to foreign competitors.

Turkish Finances.

The Turkish Budget, which has now been presented to the deputies, makes a very unsatisfactory showing, as it has been clear for some time was certain to be the case. The receipts are estimated at £T145,000,000, while the expenditure totals £T162,000,000, there being thus a deficit of £T17,000,000, which is really more than it appears to be, as no provision is made for the service of the public debt. It will be interesting to see what steps will be taken to meet this deficit, and while no doubt the Administration will find means to solve the problem, it is obvious that no country can face an unending series of deficits, and the only real solution is the economic development of Turkey, which, as I have emphasised frequently, demands a different attitude on the part of the authorities to foreign co-operation, whether in the shape of individual trade or otherwise.

A New Sudan Loan.

This week has seen the issue of a new Sudan Government Loan for an amount of £1,500,000, the principal and interest of which are guaranteed by the Imperial Government. The loan is in the form of Four per Cent. stock, and is issued at 86 per cent., which gives a yield of just over 4⅝ per cent. without making allowance for the premium on redemption. The issue forms part of a total authorised issue sufficient to raise a sum of £3,500,000 to complete the expenditure upon the works now under construction for the irrigation of the Gezira Plain. It is secured on the general revenues and assets of the Sudan Government, with priority over any existing charges except those in respect of the existing £3,763,400 Sudan Government 4½ per Cent. Guaranteed Stock.

The Outlook in the Sudan.

An interesting feature of the prospectus was a statement signed by Lieut.-Col. George Schuster, Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government, describing the trade and financial position of the Sudan. It is pointed out that it is expected that the Gezira Irrigation Works will be completed by July, 1925, which will enable irrigation to be commenced in time to produce a cotton crop for the season 1925-6, when the Sudan Government should begin to derive revenue from an expenditure which has hitherto been unproductive. The area to be placed under cotton under the scheme will be 100,000 acres, which should produce upwards of 75,000 bales of cotton, of the receipts from which the Government will be entitled to 35 per cent.

Improving Finances.

The trade and resources of the country, it is pointed out, are meanwhile developing in a satisfactory manner. Exports and re-exports for the first eight months of the year amounted in value to £E2,941,498, or nearly £E200,000 in advance of the total for the whole of 1923. The exports for the period in question include £E1,387,919 for cotton. The total cotton exports for this year are expected to amount to about 50,000 bales, as compared with 28,000 bales for 1923. There has also been a steady expansion of the shipping at Port Sudan, the tonnage of vessels visiting the port in 1923 being 2,265,375, as compared with 1,499,935 for 1922. The Budget statistics also make a very good showing. There was an average surplus from 1913 to 1917 of £E96,904, and for the five years ended

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1922 this had risen to £E348,347, while for 1923 the surplus was £E373,663. It is pointed out that the expenditure for 1923 is actually considerably less than for the three preceding years, though it includes, moreover, for the first time, a proper provision for a renewals fund for the Government Railways and an allocation of £E72,000 to reserve for service of the Gezira loans.

Anglo-Persian Dividend.

The directors of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company have decided to recommend a dividend of 10 per cent. less tax on the ordinary shares for the year ended March 31, and to carry forward, subject to excess profits duty and corporation tax, £1,746,643. The distribution, which is the same as before, is in accordance with expectations.

Ottoman Debt Distribution.

The decision of the Commission for the allocation of the old Ottoman debt is now announced. £T17,500,000 is allocated to Greece, £T5,000,000 to Palestine, £T12,500,000 to Mesopotamia, and £T15,000,000 to Syria. The effect of this will be to reduce the charge falling on Turkey from £T9,500,000 to £T6,000,000. The States interested have a period of three months for the submission of protests against the allocation.

Growing Demand for Cotton Goods.

Among the earliest signs that are to be expected as an indication of a general trade revival is a growing demand for cotton goods from all parts, and it is satisfactory to be able to state that this is now in progress. For India and for some of the outlets of the Near East there has in recent weeks been quite an encouraging development of inquiry, which, if general conditions continue to improve, as they certainly will, ought before long to expand to an extent which will give Lancashire all the work required to keep the mills going on full time. There is, however, one necessity for the adequate expansion of the cotton trade, and that is cheap cotton. Provided that the raw commodity can be obtained round about 1s., it is possible for the manufacturers to offer goods at prices at which it is possible for the various markets to absorb them, but should cotton be dear trade would undoubtedly be checked for the world has not yet recovered sufficiently from the effects of the War to pay high prices for its requirements. Fortunately, as I have indicated on previous occasions, the crop outlook this year is very favourable, and rather tends to improve than otherwise. The American crop will almost certainly be well over 13,000,000 bales, while the latest reports of the Egyptian crop are very hopeful. The latest official estimate is a crop of 6,169,538 kantars, but the market expects the yield to be in the neighbourhood of 7,000,000 kantars, which should be fully adequate for requirements.

Commentator.

NOTICE.

TO COUPON HOLDERS OF THE

OTTOMAN 4 PER CENT. UNIFIED CONVERTED DEBT, 1903/1906.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 57 of the Lausanne Treaty, which came into force on the 6th August, 1924, the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt beg to notify the holders of coupons of bonds of the Ottoman 4 per Cent. Unified Converted Debt, 1903/1906, that the prescription period of six years for coupons which fell due before the 29th October, 1914, and which have not been presented for payment, is suspended from that date, to the 6th November, 1924, and that the remaining portion of the said period of prescription for these coupons will again become operative from the 6th November, 1924.

With regard to the coupons falling due during the period beginning on the 29th October, 1914, and ending on the 6th November, 1924, which have not been presented for payment, the prescription period will only operate from the latter date.

THE INDIAN TRADE OUTLOOK.

More Promising Conditions.

The adverse conditions in the Indian market since the war, resulting from a variety of causes, have had the effect of greatly accentuating the trade depression in this country. In recent months, however, there has been steadily accumulating evidence of the development of the Indian market, and Lancashire, which has been the principal sufferer through the absence of buying, has been quick to feel the stimulating effect of the swing of the trade pendulum. Naturally the question will be asked whether the present movement marks a definite turn in the Indian trade position; and it is interesting to note that H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India and Ceylon, Mr. T. M. Ainscough, O.B.E., in a review of British trade in India for the year ended March 31, which has been revised up to June, strikes a hopeful note.

The year 1923 is the first year since the depression set in at the close of 1920 during which it is possible, he points out, to record a distinct improvement in trade. Conditions, on the whole, have been favourable. For the third year in succession the south-west monsoon was a good one, and well-distributed rains brought prosperity to the countryside and considerable surplus crops for export. Political conditions were slightly more settled during the year, and the trade recovery was not handicapped to any extent by extremist agitation. The Indian Budget was balanced for the first time since 1917-18, and a halt was called to the increase of Customs duties which had been going on from year to year and had resulted in a considerable advance in the cost of living, particularly in that of the European in India. Exchange fluctuated considerably, but the general tendency was upwards. The year opened with a rupee rate of 1s. 4 1-32d., and closed with a rate of 1s. 5¼d., the intermediate highest and lowest points touched being 1s. 5 9-32d. and 1s. 3 29-32d.

The exports of Indian produce and manufactures showed an increase on the previous year of Rs. 47 crores, or 16 per cent., and reached a total of over Rs. 348 crores. The figures were swollen by the very high prices realised for the raw cotton exports, Italy and Japan each taking approximately 10 crores more of Indian produce (mainly cotton) than they did in the previous year. On the other hand, total imports were reduced by 5 crores, or 2 per cent., to a total of Rs. 227 crores. The high prices of cotton piece goods prevented that revival in the trade which had been hoped for in view of the low stocks, considerable demand, and latent purchasing power in the country. The balance of trade in merchandise reached the record total of 144 crores of rupees in India's favour, and although this was to some extent counterbalanced by a net import of 48 crores of specie and 34 crores of Government remittances, the net visible balance amounted to no less than 61 crores of rupees.

The process of liquidation of the heavy stocks of imports which accumulated during the short-lived boom of 1919-20 is now practically completed, and the large quantities of Government surplus stores

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have also been absorbed, so that it may be stated with confidence that the market at the close of 1923 was in a healthier state than it had been at any time since the War.

The Outlook in the Import Trade.

For the first time after four years of unprecedented depression it is possible, he states, to sound a note of guarded optimism. Stocks of imported goods throughout the country, both in importers' and dealers' godowns and also in upcountry hands, are very light. Purchases, notably of piece goods, during the past four years have been on a very small scale, and he is convinced that there is an immense amount of latent purchasing power in the country, which will be translated into actual buying if only manufacturers' prices can be reduced and, more important still, if only some degree of stability in cotton goods prices could be reached which would engender confidence. During the past year the demand for cotton goods has been insistent, and the relative meagreness of the actual transactions put through is solely due to the high and fluctuating prices caused by the constant variations in the price of raw cotton. Clear evidence of the accumulated purchasing power of the country is provided by the fact that during the past three years there has been a net import into India of Rs. 67,58 lakhs worth of gold and Rs. 51,50 lakhs worth of silver. These were years of good monsoons and considerable prosperity in the country districts. Had it not been for the high prices of imported goods and a feeling of distrust in their stability, there is little doubt that a very considerable portion of these sums would have been invested in piece goods, yarn, and other imports. As it is, the bulk of these amounts have been hoarded until such time as purchases can no longer be postponed.

For the fouth year in succession, India is likely to be favoured with good crops. Importers and dealers have realised good profits on recent arrivals of goods, which have been cleared into consumption fairly promptly, and this is giving buyers more courage to enter into forward transactions than they have hitherto had. The business so far transacted in Bombay, Karachi, Delhi, and Amritsar has been far below the normal scale in volume, but Calcutta and Madras, which were not so badly hit by the slump in 1920-21, have purchased slightly more freely. Business in the upcountry markets, particularly in Delhi and Amritsar, has so far been on a very limited scale, owing to the fact that, in the first place, British shippers are somewhat reluctant—after their disastrous experiences of the past few years—to commit themselves too heavily at present high prices, and are, in many cases, confining themselves to maintaining their old markets. Secondly, the attitude of the banks is a cautious one, and in many instances the opening of a credit by the importer is insisted upon. Moreover, the Indian importers and dealers have sustained such heavy losses that in most cases their present capital resources are limited, and it is satisfactory to note that they are not inclined to speculate. It would appear, therefore, that in these markets we may look forward to a period of slow but steady recovery, and the cautious attitude of all parties is contributing to this end.

A most hopeful factor, he adds, is the subsidence of that political and racial feeling which was such a marked feature in many markets during the crisis of 1920-21. In the past the relations subsisting between the European and Indian mercantile communities have always been most cordial and friendly. After the brief interregnum of 1921 and 1922, it is most satisfactory to note that the amicable relations between European importers and representatives and their Indian clients are once more restored. The opinion is frequently expressed by Indian dealers that they are tired of politics and agitation, and desire nothing more than a period of tranquility, during which they may once more extend their business and make good the heavy losses which most of them sustained during the last few years.

The one uncertain element which might delay or prevent that recovery in trade which seems to be inevitable would be a recrudescence of political agitation. The political situation in India is still somewhat obscure, and it would be somewhat rash to venture any forecast of the future. When one contrasts, however, the present attitude of the Swarajist members of the Legislature with that of only six months ago, there is ground for hope that in time they may settle down to acceptance of the position of a more or less responsible opposition. The political as well as the economic horizon in India would appear to be distinctly clearer than it was in 1921 and 1922.

Indian political and national feeling, which has steadily increased in intensity and influence since the reformed Legislatures were opened in 1921, Mr. Ainscough continues, is affecting British economic interests in a variety of ways. In the first place, both the Indian and also the non-official European members of the Legislature are determined that, in future, all purchases of stores for Government requirements shall be made in India, and that all tenders shall be called for in India and in rupees. These claims have been met by the Government of India to some extent. The revised Stores Rules permit the newly organised Indian Stores Department at Delhi/Simla to purchase almost unlimited quantities from stocks held in India or in the course of shipment. They also sanction purchases of machinery and plant from the Indian branches of British manufacturers, or from their technical agents. There seems to be little doubt that the new Indian Stores Department will rapidly increase in importance, and that the centre of purchasing influence, so far as imported stores are concerned, will be transferred from London to India. It is probable that some form of organisation in London will always be required, as it will be necessary for India to be in touch with the latest world practice in engineering and railway working, and such a connection can

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best be maintained through the consulting engineers in London. Events are moving very quickly, however, and as the new system of purchase will call for a complete re-orientation of policy on the part of those British suppliers who have hitherto confined their attentions to the India Store Department, London, and are not represented in this country, he has deemed it advisable, in Chapter II., to deal with every aspect of the question. He would commend this chapter to the attention of all firms who are interested in supplying stores of all kinds to the Government of India, as the importance of the changes now being made in the system of purchase cannot be over-estimated.

Demand for Protection.

The granting of fiscal autonomy to India has resulted in an insistent demand for a protective tariff. The various events leading up to the acceptance by the Government of India in 1923 of a policy of discriminating protection and the creation of a Tariff Board are dealt with at some length in Chapter III., while in Chapter IV. will be found an analysis of the Indian steel industry (Protection) Act, 1924, and a forecast of its probable effect on British steel exports. The Tariff Board are at present engaged upon an inquiry into the claims of the paper and cement industries, and there seems little doubt that we shall see a procession of Indian industries seeking favours at their hands. It must always be borne in mind, however, that the Tariff Board scrupulously followed their terms of reference in the first inquiry into the steel industry, and made it perfectly clear that they would not recommend any increase of duties on articles which could not economically be manufactured in India. Moreover, they stated unequivocally that the degree of protection which they were prepared to recommend would not exceed the difference between the cost at which they were satisfied that it is possible to manufacture in India and the normal cost of imported articles of the same kind. The ability and thoroughness which characterised their first inquiry gives ground for confidence that subsequent investigations will be conducted with scrupulous fairness, and with due regard to all the interests involved, and particularly to the well-being of the community.

Moreover, even though the Tariff Board recommend protection for an industry and the Government of India are prepared to embody their recommendations in a Bill, this Bill must always be passed by the Indian Legislature before it can become operative. The recent debates on the Steel Industry (Protection) Act clearly showed that the Assembly is by no means unanimously protectionist in sympathies. The interests of the predominantly agriculturist provinces were voiced by several members and the small but vocal Labour group in the House lost no opportunity of presenting the case of the poor man, whether he be a cultivator or an employee in industry. The Steel Bill was passed with little difficulty, as the Tata Iron and Steel Works are regarded with pride as the largest purely national industrial effort which India has made. This sentiment, however, will not be so strong in the case of minor industries, particularly those which are mainly owned and managed by Europeans. It is likely that the applications of those industries with perhaps lesser claim to protection will meet with much keener opposition.

The imposition of increased duties in order to protect certain Indian industries will, without doubt, adversely affect our trade with India in the articles concerned, and will probably cause some readjustment in our trade. For instance, it is quite conceivable that, as a result of the recent steel tariff, British exports of steel bars, sections, rails, etc., will decline while exports of fabricated steel such as bridgework and parts of steel buildings may increase. There does not seem to be any ground for immediate alarm. The number of industries which would satisfy the three conditions enumerated is limited, while—on the other hand—important industries such as cotton, jute, and tea do not require protection. The Government of India are not likely to sanction any extreme measure of protection, relying as they do on import, export and excise duties for a large part of their revenue. Furthermore, the responsibility of protecting the interests of the vast body of agriculturists, who are the backbone of the country, but whose greatest need is for cheap clothing and other necessities, still rests with Government. The interests of the cultivator are directly opposed to those of the industrialist in this matter, and when one considers that over 70 per cent. of the people depend upon agriculture for their livelihood, these interests must tell in the end. It is quite likely that after a few years of protectionist agitation the representatives of the Indian people will come to the conclusion that their best interests lie rather with an increased application of science to agriculture than with the artificial stimulus of industries, which drain their labour into large towns, and whose claims for protection raise the cost of living throughout the country.

Latent Purchasing Power.

With the exception of the year of abnormally high exchange, 1920-21, and its aftermath in the following year, there has consistently been a heavy net balance of exports of merchandise in favour of India. This has hitherto been adjusted by a net import balance of Government funds, as the result mainly of the sale of Council Bills in London, and also by a considerable net import of the precious metals. The heavy imports of gold and silver during the past two years are noteworthy, as they tend to show that the agricultural prosperity of the past

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two years, as a result of good monsoons, has led to hoarding rather than to purchases of imports. A latent purchasing power is therefore being accumulated until such time as greater confidence is felt in the stability of home prices. The balance of trade in merchandise during the past year has surpassed all records, and amounts to no less than 145 crores of rupees (say, £100 millions sterling). This has been largely due to the high prices obtained for the exports of raw cotton, and brought in its train acute financial stringency during the last months of 1923 and the first quarter of 1924. Not only were exceptionally large amounts of money required to finance the purchases of cotton and other produce for export, but it was found that a longer time than usual elapsed before this money returned into circulation and back to the banks. Consequently, the Imperial Bank was forced to raise its rate to 9 per cent, at which it remained for several months. Even after allowing for the heavy net imports of treasure and considerable Government purchases of sterling in India—the method adopted last year in lieu of the sale of Council drafts by the India Office in London—there remains a net visible balance of trade of no less than 62 crores (roughly, £40 millions). It is little wonder, therefore, that exchange has remained firm, and even in July, 1924, which is during the slack export season, stood at 1s. 5d. T.T.

REFRIGERATOR FACILITIES AT BUCHAREST.

The British Vice-Consul at Bucharest (in a recent report) states that the refrigerating storehouses of the "Frigul" Company, of Calea Serban Voda 186/188, are now functioning as the Wholesale Market and the Communal Refrigerating storehouses for perishable goods. This firm state that they can store up to 10,000 tons of supplies annually, and claim to be the only firm in the country using the most recent processes. A copy of the regulations for the use of this company's refrigerating storehouses may be consulted by British companies interested at the City Office of the Department of Overseas Trade (Shipping and Transport Section), 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2.

It is stated from Bucharest that Mr. Lawrence E. Rutherford has been appointed Roumanian Consul in Liverpool.

M. Majareff, Minister of Justice, has become Minister of Railways in the Bulgarian Cabinet. M. Bobocheffski, Minister of Commerce, has become Minister of Justice, and M. Dimitri Christoff has been appointed Minister of Commerce.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-⅝
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	252-260
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	320-325
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	23.82-24.02
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5¾ 1.5$^{23}_{32}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	94.25 94.80
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	818 850
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	344-348,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5¾ 1 5$^{23}_{32}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	825-835
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.59½-4.62⅞
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	87 30-87.90
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	153½ 155½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	106.70-107.75
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	620 630
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	320 330,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	23.79-24.00

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P. & O. AND BRITISH INDIA COMPANIES.

Calls at Algiers and Port Sudan.

During January, February, and March a direct passenger service between London and Algiers will be carried on by the P. and O. and British India Companies; there will be five departures: January 16 (Mandala), January 30 (Khyber), February 13 (Modasa). The Cathay and Comorin on their maiden voyages from London on February 27 and March 27 respectively will also take passengers for Algiers.

The Khyber, from London on January 30, will also call at Port Sudan, and thereafter alternate Australia steamers will maintain direct communication between London and Port Sudan at intervals of four weeks, the first homeward sailing from the latter port being by the Khyber on April 24. The voyage between London and Algiers will occupy five days; between London and Port Sudan thirteen days.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Olympia for Bombay (Liverpool, November 22). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Matheran for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 15).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 19).

British India Line.—S.s. Boyne for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 15); s.s. Malda for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 22).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Sparta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 24).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Trentino for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Galatz, and Braila (London, November 15).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 22); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, Dec. 6).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, November 14); s.s. Nellore for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, November 15).

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*Olympia, Nov. 28.	*Elysia, Feb. 11.
*Castalia, Dec. 16.	*Circassia, Feb. 27.
*Scindia, Jan. 16.	Olympia, Mar. 13.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Rise in Dried Fruit.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Coffee.—The market has been very firm. Costa Rica is unchanged at 164s., East India is the same at 148s., Kenya is unaltered at 146s., while Santos remains at 118s.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair request. Tate's cubes are 41s. 3d., London granulated is 36s. 7½d., while Lyle's granulated is 36s. 10½d. Foreign descriptions have been variable. West Indian crystallised is 3d. up at 35s. 3d., White Java is 1s. down at 33s., while Czech granulated is 9d. lower at 20s. Futures have been easy: —December, 18s. 4½d.; March, 18s. 1½d.; May, 18s. 3d.

Maize.—The market has been rather harder. La Plata afloat has been done at 44s. 6d., while November-December has been done at 45s. 6d., December-January at 47s. 6d., and January-February at 48s.

Currants.—A rather variable tendency has prevailed, and business has been somewhat irregular. Gulf and Panariti have again been in fair request. The demand for Australian currants has again been a feature. Prices generally are very firm, and no change is to be expected in this connection until the Christmas trade is over.

Sultanas.—Smyrnas have again been in strong request, and prices have again advanced. Cretans are now so dear that business has been rather restricted in this quality. Australians have again moved off very freely. In view of the market position generally it would seem evident that before very long there must be a sharp advance in prices.

Figs.—A very extensive business has been done, particularly in Naturals, and, as supplies are relatively small, the tendency is for prices to advance.

Dates.—The demand is so far only moderate, and supplies are more than sufficient to meet it, and transactions are now being effected at lower prices.

Plums.—The demand has continued. Purchases for the Continent have been particularly large, and prices generally have sharply advanced. As supplies are poor this season, it looks as if we are in for a period of high values, which will tend to benefit other varieties of dried fruits.

Oilcakes.—The market has been rather variable. Linseed cake is 5s. down at 275s., cottonseed cake is 7s. 6d. lower at 172s. 6d., while coconut cake is 12s. 6d. up at 252s. 6d.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been dull, Indian being 6d. down at 23s. 9d., while La Plata is 4½d. down at 21s. 6d. Rapeseed has been variable. Toria is 1½d. lower at 24s. 10½d., while real bold Ferozepore is 4½d. up at 24s. 3d. Cottonseed has been fairly steady. Indian is 6d. down at 11s. 6d. Egyptian black at 14s. 3½d. is 1½d. down, while Sakellarides is 3d down at 13s. 4½d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed oil has been weak, and at 44s. 6d. is 1s. 3d. down. Rape oil has been steady, with crude unchanged at 52s. 6d., and technical refined unaltered at 55s. 6d. Cotton oil has been weak. Refined common edible is 1s. down at 51s., Egyptian crude is 6d. down at 46s., while deodorised is 2s. lower at 52s.

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Jaffa, October 26.

The tendency of the prices of cereals is still to rise. All articles of food have increased in price proportionally. Rain fell during the week.

Haifa, October 18.

The cereal market is quiet. Offers and demands are numerous, but there are more demands than offers. The rise in exchange continues uninterrupted.

Teheran, September 6.

There is no improvement to report for the past week. Exchange keeps at the same level, with the exception of the rupee.

The following report is taken from the monthly circular of the bank:—

Mesopotamia.

Piece-Goods.—Since the despatch of our last report, the market improved slightly and an appreciable revival in the piece-goods market ensued. But unfortunately this revival lasted only a fortnight—from August 25 till September 10—and from this latter date business has been at a complete standstill. This stagnation is consequent on the sudden fall in the prices of cotton in Manchester. Buyers have refrained from effecting any purchases anticipating a further fall. Practically no sales are taking place. Present prices are nominal, and no business is being transacted. Persia is not a buyer at present, but it is expected that huge orders will reach this side about the middle of October.

The present stocks are not large, but if a further fall in prices takes place in Manchester, a panic will spread amongst buyers, with the inevitable result that stocks will accumulate and their disposal will become difficult. Merchants will then find themselves in an embarrassing position.

Review of the Economic and Commercial Situation.—No improvement has taken place, and the crisis through which the country is passing is even worse than it has ever been. It is now realised in responsible quarters that the only hope of improving the economic situation is by the exploitation of the natural resources of the country. The Government is willing to consider proposals for the development of the country's national wealth. It is confirmed that the Asfar concession will work shortly.

We understand also that negotiations are proceeding for the granting of a concession of oil to a company already established in Baghdad. The result of the negotiations hitherto made are not known, but it is believed that the issue will be favourable.

Egyptian Hotels.—Talons at the side of the preference share warrants to bearer must now be surrendered to the company at 11, Ironmonger Lane, E.C.2, the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, London, Cairo, or Alexandria, or the Banque Commerciale de Bale, Basle, Switzerland. They must be listed on forms which can be obtained upon application from the company or from the banks above mentioned.

The Turkish Government has appointed Sefa Bey, Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture, as its representative at the next session of the Opium Conference, which will meet at Geneva on November 17, in order to study the question of the limitation of the manufacture of the various products of opium (says a Reuter message). This will be the first time that Turkey has participated in an international meeting held under the auspices of the League of Nations.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Firm.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended October 30, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has shown great firmness, especially for Sakellarides; the net changes on the week are the following :— Sakellaridis, $1.91 up for November, $1.95 up for January, $1.58 up for March, $1.22 up for May; Ashmouni, $0.45 up for December, $0.18 up for February, $0.25 up for April. This week's firmness must be again attributed to the intensive demand and the high premiums paid for spot cotton. There is no doubt that spinners' purchases during the summer and the beginning of the season must have been larger than was generally thought: although October shipment commitments have now been covered, exporters continue to be keen buyers of spot cotton on the local and up-country markets, and in many cases pay rather exaggerated premiums. Another factor which is contributing to the firmness of the futures market is that so far not much hedging has taken place; this is due to the fact that, apart from rare exceptions, the native, while the market is rising or keeps steady, will not hedge his holdings, and this is precisely what has happened this season. New York fluctuations have so far influenced our market very little, and the premiums of Egyptian cotton over American have now increased to $19.40 for Sakel and $6.47 for Ashmouni, the exchange difference not being taken into account. This week's demand from abroad has been good. It is generally believed that the crushing victory of the Conservative Party in England will do much towards an improvement in trade conditions. The week's receipts amount to 448,536 krs., against exports 212,525 krs.; the stock stands at 1,452,801 krs.

Spot.—We have had an active week at Minet el Bassal, and sales amount to about 35,000 B/s, of which we estimate 16,500 B/s Sakellarides, 9.500 B/s Uppers, 7,400 B/s Zagora, 1,100 B/s Pilion, 300 B/s White, and 200 B/s Brown. In spite of the heavy crop movement and large arrivals, there is as yet no tendency on the part of holders to press sales, and there has again been sufficient demand to maintain the present abnormal spot premiums.

Sakellaridis.—There has been business in all styles, cotton from Fully Good Fair upwards receiving most attention. Prices of spot against contracts are generally without much change.

Uppers.—All styles, except the very low grades, have been dealt in. Spot premiums are unchanged.

Lower-Egypt Zagora has again been in good request, mainly in the grades above Fully Good Fair. Last week's spot premiums are maintained.

Pilion has been in good demand, especially the higher grades. Spot premiums are considerably dearer and are very irregular. There has been keen competition for really good grade lots, and high premiums have been paid.

Brown.—A fair business has been done. Spot premiums are unchanged except for good and better, which are rather dearer.

White.—A moderate business has been done. Spot premiums are somewhat easier than last week.

Reuter's Jerusalem Correspondent states that 1,140 tons of tobacco are available for export this season, and the Department of Agriculture is forwarding samples of leaves to British and Continental markets. Packing will begin in a month's time.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

The Price of Cotton.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended November 8 states :—

Nothing of special interest has transpired during the past week. Trading has continued on the more subdued lines recently noted, but the amount of business passing appears sufficient to maintain spinners and manufacturers in the stronger attitude they have lately adopted. Probably a much larger volume of business could be transacted if there were more confidence that prices will not be lower in the near future, both through a reduction in raw cotton quotations and also in the cost of making yarn owing to an extension of working hours.

Yarn.—Spinners of American yarns commenced this week to run 32 hours instead of the 26¼ which have been in force for so long. Moreover, the Federation has decided to take a ballot of its members on the question of a further extension of working hours commencing in December, although itself recommending no increase. As regards the mills themselves, many of them are well booked up for some time ahead, and the prospective larger output has had no influence on the tone of the market. Manufacturers requiring early delivery find difficulty in discovering spinners in a position to accommodate them. Margins in general are said to be bigger to-day than for a considerable time past, and spinners appear determined to take the fullest advantage of the better position in which they now find themselves. In Egyptian spinnings the position has become somewhat irregular owing to the difficulties of raw cotton supplies and the high prices thereof.

Cloth.—There is nothing of special interest to report as regards the cloth section. A moderate business has been done with India, which has been, as usual, by far the largest buyer. Egypt and the Near East have given good support, and, in fact, proportionate to size, have been perhaps the best of the foreign markets. Little business transpires for China, and the high price of Egyptian yarns seems to be restricting business in the finer cloths which the United States usually take.

Raw Cotton.—In American cotton a quiet week has been experienced, with a tendency towards slightly lower prices. Another Bureau report is due to be published in New York this afternoon, and, in view of the very favourable weather recently, it is expected to show an improved position. In Egyptian the market has fluctuated much more and at times in quite an excited manner. Whilst the total crop is expected to be up to the average of recent years, it appears to be thought that the supply of Sakellaridis will be very short and, in consequence, prices have moved upwards.

Closing quotations yesterday were as follows :— American Middling, 13.25; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 26.00.

TEXTILES.

IF you wish to obtain your Textile goods from England at the lowest possible prices, communicate with K. JEBARA, 25, Princess Street, Manchester. (Established 1887).

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LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Business Quieter.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended November 5 :—

Egyptian Spot.—Business has been much quieter during the past week, and price fluctuations have kept within narrow limits, and on balance show but little change. The general inquiry has shown a considerable falling off, which can probably be attributed to the large amount of cotton taken by spinners last week, and, partly no doubt, to the high prices asked for certain qualities. In Sakel, Good Fair and Fully Good Fair have been in good request, but these qualities continue to be very scarce, as is also any really good staple lot amongst the better grades. Prices are irregular; F.G.F. Sakel was sold to-day at 25.25d. and various lots of rather wasty "Good" cotton are on offer round about 26.50d. There is a growing reluctance amongst spinners to pay current prices, but although many of them still persist in the "big break" theory, there are signs that others are gradually altering their opinions, and are more disposed to accept the situation as it stands. Judging by what we have lately seen in the Sakel market, staple cotton is not going to be easy to find this season.

In Uppers, the same difficulty is beginning to present itself, and already spinners are complaining about the difficulty in finding staple cotton. Only a moderate business has been done in this growth. Pilion has been in improved request, and the basis for this cotton has hardened considerably during the past ten days; prices are somewhat irregular, and it is obvious that this growth has not yet found its proper level. Actual business has been only on a small scale. Only a small business has taken place in Sudan Sakel, but a fairly good inquiry still persists for the better staple lots in White Sudan, with little or no material result however. Other growths have been neglected. A fair business has taken place in cotton for shipment, and Alexandria prices have remained very steady. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 31st ult. were returned as 14,614 bales. Estimated sales 1,300 bales Egyptian, and 150 bales Sudan. Quotations of Brown and Upper are reduced 5 points, those of Sakel are reduced 5 points for Fair, Good, and Fine, whilst Good Fair is 5 points lower, Fully Good Fair 20 points lower, and Extra Fine 20 points *higher*. Fully Good Fair Sakel to-day 25.40d.

Egyptian Futures.—Taken throughout, the tone in this department since we last wrote has been very steady. At periods considerable liquidation has been in evidence, but the resultant reactions have only been of a minor character, and generally followed by the gradual re-establishment of previous levels. Near positions continue to show the greater strength, November to-day being traded in at 200 points over January. With the standard quality still running roughly 200 points over the contract value, a further widening would appear inevitable as the present month progresses. So far there are no evidences of the anticipated break in values at the other side, and, whilst judging from the daily receipts, cotton is moving with greater freedom, it would appear as if the demand from exporters is sufficiently active to encourage growers to hold out for full premiums, as in this market contract values in Alexandria are considerably below the actual spot basis. This particularly applies to the Sakel options there. Uppers are on quite a different basis, being more under the influence of the American market. The Alexandria General Produce Association have just published their crop estimate, the figure given being about seven million kantars; this has been the generally accepted out-turn for some time, and has had little effect on the course of the market. Trade reports continue to be satisfactory, and in some quarters spinners have covered their commitments by substantial purchases of actual. Probably, on the whole, consumers are in a more comfortable position as regards supplies than they have been for some weeks, and, even granting that holders in Egypt are in a fairly strong position, should a slackening off in the local demand coincide with weakness in the American markets, some cheapening from the present level might be induced. Even with considerably reduced consumption, it would appear that there is insufficient Sakel cotton this season to go round.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co. report as follows for the week ended October 25 :—

The arrivals of sultanas on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are estimated at 32,000 tons, and the sales to date are put at 30,200 tons. Closing prices: Per cwt., c.i.f. London—Type 12, 46s.; 13, 50s.; 14, 53s.; 15, 57s.; 16, 65s.; 17, 75s. The sultana market is strong. Prices show a small advance on last week's level. Indications point to the advance continuing.

The production of the Dacia Romano Petroleum Syndicate for October was 370 tons.

Eleven hundred and forty tons of tobacco are available for export from Palestine this season. Samples of leaves are being forwarded to British and Continental markets.

The production of the Indo-Burma Oilfields (1920), Ltd., for September was 4,572.4 barrels, being 3,243.8 barrels from Yenanma field and 1,328.6 barrels from Padaukpin field.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended October 20 amounted to £E14,109, making the total from April 1 £E172,001. In the corresponding periods of 1923 the figures were £E11,545 and £E145,503.

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CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."

Owing to the election, the season can scarcely be said to have properly begun yet. This week, however, will see most of the tournaments in full swing. I understand that the championship of the Metropolitan Club will commence on Saturday. While I have not yet seen the entries, I have reason to believe that they will be much stronger than in recent years, though there is unfortunately no prospect of their being up to the high standard reached a few years ago.

The development of tournaments and leagues in recent years has been most pronounced, and the lot of the player who is in demand for these competitions is not to be envied. I know one individual who expects to average between four and five games per week until the season ends. Possibly that is an exceptional case, but there is no doubt that the enlarged season is now beginning to tell on many of the players.

The following game was played in the British Championship at Southport between Mr. R. H. V. Scott (White) and Mr. R. P. Michell (Black):—1 Kt—KB3, P—Q4; 2 P—B4, P—QB3; 3 P—Q Kt3, B—B4; 4 B—Kt2, P—K3; 5 P—KR3, Kt—B3; 6 P—KKt4(a) B—Kt3; 7 B—Kt2, QKt—Q2; 8 P—Q3, B—Q3; 9 QKt—Q2, Q—K2; 10 P—R3, PKR3; 11 P—Kt4, P—QR4; 12 P—QKt5, BP x P; 13 P x KtP, 0—0; 14 Kt—B, P—K4; 15 Kt—R4, Kt—Kt3; 16 Kt—K3, KR—K; 17 KKt—B5, B x Kt; 18 Kt x B, Q—Q2; 19 Kt x B, Q x Kt; 20 0—0, QR—B; 21 Q—Kt3, P—R5; 22 Q—Q, B—B4(b); 23 B x KP, Q—Q2; 24 P—B4, R x P; 25 R—B, R—QB; 26 R x R ch, Q x R; 27 B—Q4, KKt—Q2; 28 P—Kt5, Q—B3; 29 Q—R, QKt3; 30 P—R4, P—B4; 31 Q—B3, K—R2; 32Q—B7, Q—QB3; 33 Q—Q8, Q—K3; 34 P—R5, QKt; 35 Q—K7, Q—KB; 36 Q—K6, 36 Resigns.

(a) In the best style of the ultra-modern school.

(b) An oversight. KKt—Q2 should have been played.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Water Tower.—The Ministry of the Interior in Egypt invites tenders for the supply and erection of a water tower at Mit Ghamr. December 1. (D.O.T.)

Incandescent Metallic Filament.—The Superintendent of Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Bulâq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of incandescent metallic filament and half-watt lamps. December 2.

Soap. — The Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 110 tons of hard soap to Egyptian Army Supply Stores, Tura. December 2.

Coal.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of 200,000 metric tons of colliery-screened Welsh steam coal. December 3.

Cloth.—The Administration of the Egyptian State Railways invites tenders for the supply of cloth for clothing for the summer of 1925 and the winter season 1925-26. The cloth required is:—Cloth, blue, for uniforms and overcoats; cloth, dark grey, for uniforms and overcoats; cloth, light grey, for uniforms and overcoats; khaki serge, khaki drill, blue jean. The total cost, estimated on last supply prices, is approximately £9,300, delivered Egypt. Copy of specification may be obtained on application, against payment in advance of 250 mills., at the Inspecting Engineer's Office, Egyptian and Sudan Government, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1, where standard samples are on exhibition. December 9.

Axlebox Pads.—The Egyptian State Railways invite tenders for the supply of lubricating axlebox pads. Tender forms and specifications can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. December 15.

Railway Sleepers.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of wooden railway sleepers. December 16.

Steel Reservoir.—The Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply and erection of a steel reservoir of 300 m^3 capacity, with all steel work, etc. December 20. (D.O.T.)

Turkey.

Wagons.—The Ministry of Public Works invites tenders for the supply of 40 wagons for rails and ballast, of which 25 are for the Angora-Moussakeuy line and 15 for the Samsoun-Siva line. November 21. (D.O.T.)

Bridges.—The Commissariat of Public Works invites tenders for the supply and erection of five metal bridges on the Samsoun-Sivas line. November 22 (D.O.T.)

Greece.

Theatre, etc.—Tenders will shortly be invited for the building of a theatre, restaurant, and other works in Salonika and the demolition of certain old buildings there. (D.O.T.)

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The output of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended October 31 was:—Gemsah, 14 tons; Hurghada, 3,248 tons.

Egypt imported locks and fittings in the first six months of 1924 to the value of about £36,000. Germany secured the bulk of the trade.

The Madras Electric Supply Corporation announces an interim dividend of 2½ per cent., free of tax, payable to ordinary shareholders registered on November 11.

A Reuter message from Bucharest states that the Minister of Finance has made arrangements for the payment of all outstanding domestic Treasury bonds.

Reports from the Algerian property—in which the Algerian Oilfields, Ltd., is interested—state that the production for the month of October was 192 tons.

With the departure of the General Metzinger on November 5, the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes resumed its weekly service between Marseilles and Alexandria.

Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., are advised that the production of the Steaua Romana Co., Bucharest, for October was 24,420 tons, as compared with 24,120 tons during September.

A conference of Indian Princes will be opened at Delhi on November 17; and on the same day the Finance Members from all the Provinces will meet in conference under the chairmanship of Sir Basil Blackett.

The registered offices of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company were transferred this week from Great Winchester Street to Britannic House, Finsbury Circus, but the transfer and accounts departments will continue in the old offices until next month.

The numbers are announced of 381 bonds, amounting to £43,930, of the Kingdom of Roumania Four per Cent. External Loan of 1922, which have been drawn by lot in Bucharest for payment on December 1 by Messrs. Helbert, Wagg, and Co., 37, Threadneedle Street, E.C.

The importation into Roumania is prohibited of carpets of wool of any form, with or without warp of other material, with cut or uncut pile, classified under No. 108 of the Roumanian Customs Tariff. Carpets shipped to Roumania before October 9 may be imported.

A Bulgarian Royal decree announces the appointment of M. Dimitrie Cristoff to be Minister of Commerce and Industry, in the place of M. Bobochevski, who has been appointed Minister of Justice. M. Madjaroff, the former Minister of Justice, has been appointed to the vacant Ministry of Railways and Posts.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 57 of the Lausanne Treaty, which came into force on August 6, 1924, the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt notify holders of coupons of bonds of the Ottoman Four per Cent. Unified Converted Debt 1903-1906 that the prescription period of six years for coupons which fell due before October 29, 1914, and which have not been presented for payment, is suspended from that date to November 6, 1924, and that the remaining portion of the said period of prescription for these coupons will again become operative from November 6, 1924. With regard to the coupons falling due during the period beginning October 29, 1914, and ending November 6, 1924, which have not been presented for payment, the prescription period will only operate from the latter date.

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Capital Paid-up - - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - £5,013,834

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N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London:—
S. A. H. SITWELL, Esq.

Authorised Capital - - Rs. 11.25.00.000
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Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £340,000

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

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F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED

Head Office: LONDON.

(Affiliated with Barclays Bank, Ltd.).

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Nazareth.
MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta, Gibraltar.

Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000
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No. 706—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Fate of Zaghloul Pasha.

It is difficult at the moment to take very seriously the swift resignation of Zaghloul Pasha and his return to power, for, in the absence of further details, the affair bears the aspect of jig-saw work, the hitch being rather due to grit in the machinery than to the over-riding of any great human principle. No doubt there has of late been an increasing attempt to get in between the Egyptian Premier and the exercise of his full constitutional power—everyone knew that the real power in Egypt lay in other hands than those of the aged Nationalist. But it would perhaps be unjust to attribute all the "intrigues," of which so much has been made, to one side. In essence, the matter concerns Egypt alone, and it is not for any other country to endeavour to deal with the forces, either inside or outside Egypt, that have been endeavouring, and will doubtless, in spite of the re-installation of the Premier, continue to endeavour to take the real control of Egyptian affairs from Zaghloul Pasha. Yet it is curious to note the very un-Western manner in which Zaghloul Pasha tried to get out of his predicament—the act of resigning when one knows that one's resignation will not be accepted may be a manœuvre that will stir a crowd, but it will probably fail to impress more trained observers. The remainder of the Egyptian Premier's stormy career is bound to contain valuable lessons for those responsible for future relations between his country and Great Britain.

The Ubiquity of M. Raditch.

A question which, it appears, M. Raditch has periodically to ask himself is, "What does he know of Belgrade who only Belgrade knows?"; certainly, if wide experience (in the geographical sense) were any qualification in Yugoslavia for statesmanship, M. Raditch's reputation would stand high. For he is a much-travelled man. Without warning, but on a very definite negative purpose, one finds him in Russia, in England, in France; at this moment he is enjoying a rapidly-sought refuge in Switzerland. For if London can produce a "Zinovieff letter," shall Belgrade lag behind? The Pashitch Government, it seems, are satisfied that M. Raditch contemplated, or actually effected, treasonable arrangements with the Soviet Government of Moscow, and intend (if they can catch him) to bring him to trial. On the whole, however, it is an unimportant matter. What is much more important is that so great a number of Croats have so profound a distrust of Serbian centralisation as to continue to look upon M. Raditch as their leader.

Party Activity in Roumania.

From time to time in Roumania the parties opposed to the Liberal régime of the Bratianus are moved by their different bitternesses to coalesce in an endeavour to overthrow the Government, but little ever seems to come of it, for, as so often happens in Roumania, the virtue of persistence and of driving-power prevails not against the vice of individual rivalry. The report that the opponents of the Government are urging the King to dismiss it and call for a new one would appear to indicate the poverty of their reserves. At the moment, however, it really seems that some attempt at compromise between the National, the People's, and the Peasant parties is being made; if this becomes an actuality, the Government may well be doomed. Certainly there is valid enough ground for criticism of the present Roumanian Government, but the Opposition must be sorely perplexed and conscious of its weakness if it seeks to solve the problem by calling in royal assistance.

The Two-Party System in Turkey.

What has been called the "revolt of the Generals" in Turkey can as yet be said to have only a negative significance: that the one-party system inaugurated by Mustapha Kemal Pasha is at an end. Whether there exists among the members of the Angora Assembly in opposition to the Government sufficient coherence and constructive ability to form something approaching an "Opposition" as we know it it is too early to say. Conceivably, the revolt against the powers of the President may rest on individual rather than on national grounds, and it would be indulging in the

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extremest prematurity to read into this anti-Government partlet a real dissatisfaction with the methods of Angora. There is, moreover, much to be said from Mustapha Kemal's point of view, for one has but to recall the malevolent power that the military in Greece periodically assert as against the political Government to perceive how baneful the rise to power of Generals in Turkey might be. It is wiser, therefore, to regard the advent of this second party rather as an anticipation of what may come when Turkey's internal life becomes more normal, for with things without and within Turkey as they are, the centralisation of Angora must, it would seem, command the field. That such poor hearing should be given by the Angora Assembly to genuine opponents of the President's methods is obviously a pity, but it does not in itself imply that the Republican Party contains more wisdom than has the Popular Party. And it would be foolish to imagine that Turkey, for all its fervour in the adopting of Western political devices, will allow that passion to interfere with the efficient functioning of a Government, however rudely elected.

The Fighting for Mecca.

It was not to be expected that King Ali, as one must yet call him, the most competent soldier of all Hussein's sons, would renounce his right without a struggle, and his reported advance from Jeddah towards Mecca must be understood rather as a sign of his personal valour and example than as a belated rising of the Hejazis against the hosts of Ibn Saoud. Those who foresee success for this advance have apparently as grounds for estimating their own wishes, for although King Ali may have at his disposal an odd aeroplane or two, the reports that have been spread of his receiving tanks and ammunition from Europe are scarcely credible. (It was asserted, quite wrongly, that tanks were used against the Wahhabis who attacked Transjordan in the autumn.) Little is certain in desert fighting, however, and one must await details. Meanwhile, it is not extravagant to assume that Ibn Saoud will, as he all the time intended, convene his Islamic Congress at Mecca—a Congress that to us has always appeared more probable than the Cairo one of 1925. But what, with King Ali advancing against (or, as may be the case by the time that these Notes appear in print, again retiring from) the Wahhabis, alas, what has become of the plans of Mr. St. John Philby? He will now indeed be able a tale to unfold.

The Khalifate.

The fact that there is at the moment no Khalif does not appear to oppress unduly the millions of Sunnis, to whom, it was once said, the removal by Angora of this august institution from Ottoman shoulders would come as a cruel shock. Islam has, in fact, got along very well since Turkey betook to herself Western institutions in place of Oriental ones, for even if it were the assumption by Hussein that finally enraged Ibn Saoud and impelled him and his followers to capture Mecca, it is certainly not for any mere titular power that King Ali is trying to galvanise into action a sufficient opposition to the ruler of Nejd. This interregnum provides us with a lesson which will not soon be forgotten. It has, indeed, been taught us by students of Islam ever since the fall of the Ottoman Khalifate, but ocular demonstration of its content is likely to be of more lasting benefit to this country, which, generally speaking, distrusts what history has to teach it of the East. Reason lies with those scholars, doubted at the time, who said that Angora's action would cause but the faintest ripples in the ocean of Islam, for at the moment the Moslem world stands neither higher nor lower, nor is it more nor less settled, than it stood and was a year ago.

Anglo-French Co-operation.

A fortnight ago we devoted a general article to the subject of Anglo-French co-operation in the Middle East, and though in some quarters we were met with the scoff concerning its non-existence, we are able now to return to the matter more particularly. For the French High Commissioner for Syria, General Weygand, has just left Palestine, which he has been visiting with a view to mollifying certain difficulties that have arisen and still exist in the minds of French and British officials in the Middle East. As we said before, the most prominent points concern the economic and the strategic situation, and it is mainly these which General Weygand discussed at Jerusalem. One may hope, in anticipating his pronouncements or actions, that it was commonly found in the last few days at Jerusalem that the whole (of Syria) is greater than the sum of its parts; in other words, that the conservation as separate economic units of the political creations of Syria, Palestine, and Transjordan is an impossibility. Commercial rivalry between French and British mandated territory there must and should rightly be, and it is not surprising that Beyrout fears as much as does Jaffa the construction of a harbour at Haifa; but that is in the nature of things, and certainly does not involve the mutual strangling of the two countries.

The Strategic Situation.

In a consideration of the defence system of the Middle East it cannot be too often stated that a strong Syria is essential to Britain's position in Iraq, Transjordan, and Palestine. The northern frontiers of Syria are unsatisfactory enough as it is; all the more reason, therefore, for our suppressing with the firmest hand any trouble coming from her southern Transjordanian frontier. The dependency of Iraq's northern frontier on French good will is obvious, for part of the Baghdad railway to Nisibin, along which, in the event of an Anglo-Turkish dispute concerning Mosul, Turkey would wish to run her troops, is still in French hands. It was, incidentally, unworthily suggested a week or so ago that refusal on the part of the French in Syria to grant to the Turkish military authorities permission to repair a certain bridge

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on the Baghdad line, and to use the line between Maidan-Ekbes and Chobanbey was not certain. For ever since the British authorities in Iraq asked France, in February, 1923, whether she would co-operate, if necessary, against Turkey, the matter has never been in doubt. Not only, then, in the comparatively smaller matter of public security, but in the larger one of the preserving of the integrity of the frontiers, should the post-War divisions of the pre-War Syria work hand in hand with Iraq.

Different National Attitudes.

Yet it is true that, even given co-ordination in economic and strategic questions, there remains what appears to be a fundamental difference between the respective attitudes of France and Britain towards the Middle East. France is still convinced that Britain is pushing the Arab ideal to the detriment of French interests in Syria; and she is, further, aggrieved that Britain prefers, for the grand scheme of guarding the route to India, reliance on the Zionist movement to reliance on a Palestine guided, as it was to some extent before the War, by French culture. And what Britain thinks of the way in which France has lived up to the Declaration of November, 1918, is, of course, well enough known. There are errors in both attitudes, but it is difficult to foresee their removal until some large common pronouncement of future policy is made. The time, as it seems to us, is convenient for such a pronouncement. Our new Government can wash the slate clean, and, starting out on the broad policy of Anglo-French accord, state plainly and honestly their reasons, where they exist, for inability to share the French point of view. Such a statement would, we are convinced, be of infinite value in the securing not only of tranquillity, but of the more hardly gained prosperity for which these countries during the last six years have been patiently hoping. This is not the place to take sides in the matter: the great thing is to realise that the futile separatist policy of Britain and France should have been the last, instead of the first policy, to be tried.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Speeches and Forecasts.

Most of the leading members of the new Government have now made a speech, either returning thanks to their constituents or in fulfilment of some old engagement, and Mr. Baldwin and several others have also spoken, of course, at the Guildhall banquet.

Nothing very startling was expected or said, but the new Government has impressed people by its workmanlike character, and the way in which it has settled down to a long stay. Most of the Cabinet have had some previous experience of Government, which is, of course, an advantage; and what comes as a pleasant surprise about the new political eleven is that it has no tail. Indeed, one candid critic, who shall be nameless, gave it as his opinion that the Under-Secretaries and junior members of the team were on the whole an even abler lot than the heads.

Some of these young men will go far, and Mr. Baldwin has done wisely to include them. In ten years' time both Mr. Ormsby Gore and Mr. Wood will rank as recognised Tory leaders; the only cloud on the horizon of these two brilliant young men being that they are sons of peers, who must in the course of nature be eventually immured in the House of Lords. Their abilities would make them likely Prime Ministers, but no more Premiers will sit in the Upper House.

Mr. E. D. Morel.

There is already a vacancy in the new Parliament, Mr. E. D. Morel having fallen down dead in Devonshire last week. This man, who was Labour member for Dundee, exercised a generally mischievous influence both before and during the War. His activities were numerous, but they were all connected with foreign policy, and all in some odd fashion tended to the advantage of Germany.

The deceased man was the tutor and for many years the leader of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald in foreign affairs, and here again his influence was unfortunate, as was seen when the two founded that pretentious piece of nonsense, the Union of Democratic Control, in 1914.

The late Prime Minister, however, began to dispense with his tutor as he got nearer to Downing Street. Mr. Morel expected that he would be given the post of Foreign Secretary, and was bitterly disappointed when Mr. MacDonald took that post himself and recommended Mr. Morel for the Nobel Peace Prize as a consolation. Nothing came of the recommendation, the Nobel authorities probably realising that to offer it to Mr. Morel would be an affront to British and French opinion.

The Silence.

The Armistice Day ceremony grows in solemnity year by year, and it is now easily the most impressive national festival. At five minutes to eleven last Tuesday London was its usual busy self; at eleven all traffic stopped, all heads were bared, and the silence was almost uncanny in its message and memory of the past. Even the flight of the City pigeons overhead, disturbed by the sound of the time signal, did not detract from the solemnity of the proceedings.

Better Trade Ahead.

There is no longer any doubt that trade is improving. Several big contracts have been placed this last week, the new issues have been well taken up, and there is an air of confidence about. All this is to the good; the other side of the shield, of course, is that prices are rising, and with increased prices comes the inevitable demand for increased wages and the possibility of strikes. Nothing very serious threatens at the moment, but some grave industrial difficulties are ahead for next year, which it will need all the tact of the Government to surmount. Luckily, the new Minister of

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Labour has a breathing space in which to familiarise himself with the work of his department.

The Next Budget?

The prospect of better trade has, of course, set tongues wagging about the possibility of reduced taxation in the next Budget, and Mr. Winston Churchill is already receiving advice (entirely unsolicited) from individuals and newspapers and commercial organisations. Let us hope he preserves a grave face under these admonitions, which are often a little wide of the mark.

One thing is certain: there will be no surplus, for Mr. Snowden's reductions of taxation left nothing over. The taxpayer has not benefited by these reductions—except through the abolition of the very small Inhabited House Duty—as the reductions were in indirect taxation, and the increase of food prices has easily swallowed up the diminution of the duty. There will, however, be the usual annual reduction of some millions in the Pensions Account, on which every Chancellor of the Exchequer can reckon; apart from this, no immediate economies can be anticipated. Indeed, it is rumoured that there are considerable increases in the Education Account to be met, which will more than counterbalance any reduction on this score.

There can hardly be any reduction in the fighting services votes, as Mr. Snowden has already made a heavy cut this year; but the Chambers of Commerce (and the *Daily Mail*) are already showing signs of agitating for the Geddes Axe again in the Civil Service. But little can be expected on this score. The Civil Service has been cut until howls of anguish have been heard from every department, from the Home Office to the Board of Trade; and it must be said that if any further reductions are made, it will be difficult to get first class men to enter the service. No Cabinet Minister could make himself responsible, even on the score of economy, for lowering the future personnel of the bureaucracy.

The best prospect of reducing taxation lies in the generally improved condition of the country as a whole, which should make it possible at no distant date to fund the War Debt. Consolidation will effect automatically considerable economies in the service of that debt, which is in fact the great dead load that constitutes half the load which every Chancellor has to carry. If Mr. Churchill, during his period of office, can carry this through, he will have deserved a colossal statue (Hindenburg size) from the income-tax payer.

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Two New Judges.

It is accepted that there will be no difficulty in getting the new Parliament to sanction the appointment of two additional judges of the High Court. Indeed, the late Parliament was pledged to make this addition to the judiciary; it is urgently required, for the increase of litigation of late years has often led to an unavoidable delay in the trial of cases which is tantamount to a denial of justice. Something is being said, too, as to the need of increasing the salaries of judges—who, like Cabinet Ministers, have had no war bonus—but although a strong case can be made out for raising the salary from £5,000 to £8,000 a year, this is likely to be less favourably received. But with the present swollen fees of great counsel, and the comparative pittance paid to judges, it is whispered at the bar that it is more and more difficult to get the best men on the bench.

There is, of course, a great deal of speculation on the new appointments, and the name of Sir Leslie Scott has inevitably been mentioned once more—this with some show of verisimilitude, as he does not appear in the new Government. There is reason, however, for saying that these speculations are premature. The addition has first to be sanctioned by Parliament before any new appointments are made, and probably six months may elapse before the names are published.

A Nursing Problem.

A grave controversy has broken out in the hospital world, and it is being debated with the usual heat that surrounds medical politics. The question, in brief, is: Shall nurses bob? The nurses say Yes, the authorities No. The nurses say their hair is their own, to wear or not as they choose; the authorities counterclaim that it is undignified to bob, and that bobbed hair annoys the patients—to which the nurses in turn have made the devastating reply that bobbed hair is more hygienic in hospital work. That certainly seems a deadly shot, but the authorities stand firm, and a thousand heads are now reported to be anticipating that dreadful stage between bobbed and long hair, "when it will neither stand up nor sit down."

Tertium Quid.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

British officials visited King Hussein at Akaba last week before his departure for Basra.

The Persian Government is negotiating an Agreement with Russia for an air mail service.

Bibi Ama, mother of the Ali brothers, the Indian politicians, died at Delhi on November 14.

The Comte de Chambrun left Paris last week to take up his appointment as French Minister at Athens.

The Foreign Service Students' Committee of Cambridge University have appointed Abdul Ala Afifi lecturer in Arabic and Abdul Qadir Zafir lecturer in Turkish.

Marquis Cavalcanti has terminated his study of the military questions in the Balkans, and is about to return to Spain to take up his command in the Balearic Islands.

The *Morning Post* Athens correspondent states that the school erected by the Refugee Settlement Commission at Byron Colony, near Athens, was inaugurated on November 16.

The Bishop of Gibraltar, continuing the tour of his diocese, will visit Yugoslavia, whence he will go to Roumania. After a brief stay at Sofia he will visit Constantinople, Smyrna, Athens, Patras, and Malta.

M. Alexis Blank, the Roumanian Consul in Cairo, was found dead on November 14 in the Nuzha Garden at Alexandria. A letter which was found in his pocket stated that he had committed suicide for personal reasons.

The funeral of M. Gavrilovitch, the late Yugoslav Minister in London, which took place in Belgrade on November 12, was attended by a representative of King Alexander, by the whole Diplomatic Corps, and many notables. The funeral orations were delivered by M. Pashitch, the Prime Minister, Dr. Nintchitch, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Professor Stanoyevitch, of Belgrade University.

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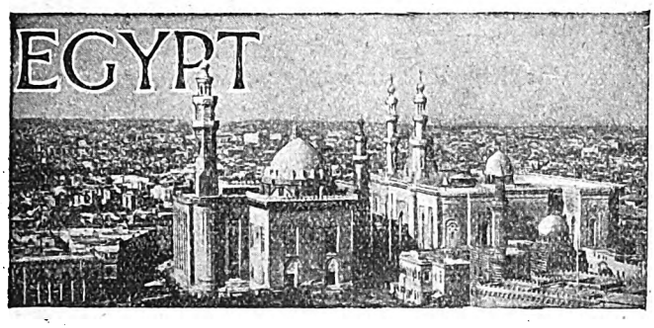
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, November 8.

King Fuad's Return.

Egypt is now settling down for the winter season. The Court returned to Cairo last Monday, and Parliament will reassemble next Wednesday. King Fuad had a very fine reception on his return. He came up as usual by special train accompanied by his Ministers and drove with his picturesque escort in semi-state to Abdin Palace. The route was profusely decorated with bunting and triumphal arches, and in the evening the city was magnificently illuminated. The police arrangements were perfect, and not a single untoward incident marred the occasion.

The notables assembled at the station to greet His Majesty included Viscount Allenby. This is the first occasion that the High Commissioner has attended a ceremony of this nature. Usually he has confined himself to calling on the King immediately after his arrival, and the vernacular Press has shown an inclination to attach political significance to what was merely an act of courtesy towards and a sign of his personal respect for the King on the part of H.B.M.'s representative.

El Azhar.

Trouble has broken out at El Azhar, where the students have gone out on strike. The ostensible cause is a long-standing grievance—viz., an improvement in rations, an amelioration in educational facilities, and better prospects of Government appointments. These demands were put forward last spring, and the present Cabinet appointed a special committee to investigate the question. Their report has been for some time in the hands of the Government, but the latter suspended action thereon during the absence of Zaghloul Pasha. Nothing having happened since Zaghloul Pasha's return, the Azharites, together with the students in the religious seminaries in the provinces, went on strike in order to call attention to their grievances.

The Government's reply was to the effect that the report had received attention, and an early opportunity would be taken to obtain the approval of Parliament to the necessary change in the law, but that so long as they remained on strike no action would be taken; and an order was issued that they must return within forty-eight hours—otherwise the disciplinary measures provided by the law would be taken against them. The King also sent a message counselling the Azharites to resume their studies. The students in the provinces have returned to work, and at the moment of writing the Azharites are showing distinct signs of wavering, so that by the time this reaches you the strike will possibly have come to an end. There is reason to believe that the Azharites were encouraged in their action by certain political elements whose interest lay in creating difficulties for Zaghloul Pasha and his colleagues, and this knowledge has undoubtedly increased the Government's determination to repress this movement from the very start.

A "Modus Vivendi."

The journal in European language which belongs to the phalanx of Government organs on Thursday evening published an interesting article in which it asked why, if no agreement is possible, a *modus vivendi* should not be come to between Britain and Egypt? Its argument is that the requirements of Egypt render close political relations with Great Britain a daily necessity, and there is risk that the absence of an agreement may lead to the frequent occurrence of incidents of a more or less grave character. Since the British Government adheres to the Declaration of February 28, 1922, which the Zaghloulist Ministry refuses in any circumstances to recognise, why not substitute for this declaration another diplomatic instrument, a *modus vivendi*, which, after putting on record the impossibility of arriving at a general agreement, would establish for a period of, say, three to four years, the political and diplomatic relations between the two countries?

The paper goes on to explain that from this new diplomatic instrument Egypt could obtain much more advantageous provisional conditions than those of the February 28 Declaration. She could compel the British Government to agree to her admission to the League of Nations without prejudice to her rights; she could obtain immediate admission to an effective participation in the co-administration of the Sudan. And as regards the Canal, the idea of co-operation enunciated by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald could be put into operation, and the Egyptian Army could be permitted to share in the protection of the Suez Canal until such time as it might be in a position to undertake alone this common duty. It considers that this *modus vivendi*, while preserving all Egypt's rights, would materially improve the present situation. In presenting this remarkable proposal the organ is careful to declare that what it says should in no way be regarded as representing the official view,

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but, knowing as one does its close relations with Zaghloul Pasha, who inspires every political article that it publishes, one cannot help regarding the publication of this article on the eve of the reassembly of Parliament as an official *ballon d'essai*.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Zagreb, November 13.

The New Government.

The Pashitch-Pribitchevitch Government was established in a surprising manner, and in itself it came as a surprise. For until the very last moment the opinion prevailed that any solution was better than a General Election, and a "P.P." Government would spell a General Election.

The Croatian Question.

The crux of Yugoslav internal policy is the Croatian question. It was to solve that question that the thing happened which was preposterous in the eyes of so many in Belgrade—to wit, that a Pashitch Government should have to give place to a Davidovitch Ministry, in which the Serbians were in a decided minority. But the preposterous proved to be the thing needful, and the Davidovitch Government was attended with considerable success. Almost all the Croatian deputies put in appearance in the Skupshtina, took the prescribed oath of allegiance to the King and Constitution, and voted on the side of a Government which efficiently safeguarded Serbian interests. And still more important was the altered mood which grew up everywhere in the Croatian towns.

The Croat opposition sprang originally from resentment caused by bad administration, and as all protest, even the most justified, was rendered fruitless by Pashitch's *entourage*, the Croats at length began to hate the veteran Premier and his adherents. At the same time it was impossible to get the better of them, as they always remained masters of the situation. Gradually the Croats came to regard bad administration, Pashitch and Pribitchevitch Government, Serbian State and all as practically synonymous. At this point an Opposition which had hitherto been only tactical developed into one of principle, and Croatian policy became almost hostile to the State.

With the appearance of Davidovitch's Government the whole situation changed at one stroke. The Croats realised that Pashitch and Yugoslavia were not indissoluble; that among the Serbs also there were respected and powerful politicians, able and willing to fight corruption in all its forms, and likewise sincerely desirous of agreement with the Croats on the basis of equality. Then a new idea began to take root in the Croatian people, and this idea was useful to the State but fraught with peril for the Pashitch and Pribitchevitch circle, and no less dangerous to M. Raditch.

The Pashitch-Raditch Interaction.

The above may be taken as a brief summary of the psychological state of public opinion in Yugoslavia, when the resignation of the Minister for War brought about the recent Ministerial crisis. Neither for M. Pashitch nor for M. Raditch could it be desirable that the frame of mind just described should gain ground. For as soon as it spread from the towns to the villages—and that would inevitably happen—there would be an end to M. Raditch's magnificence, and therewith also to that of M. Pashitch. For M. Pashitch's strength lay in M. Raditch and *vice versâ*. So long as M. Pashitch could terrify the Serbian electorate with the Raditch bogey, so long would he be accounted the saviour of Serbia. With M. Raditch's fall, M. Pashitch would lose his political *raison d'être*, and therefore he and the Croatian peasant leader, as regards their tactics, pursued the same goal. To destroy the spirit of conciliation, to prevent the realisation of brotherhood, was the plan of both alike, and for this reason they were both agreed that nothing short of a General Election could bring about a solution of the Government crisis. Political passions are to be inflamed afresh by an electoral campaign; passion will blind the electors, and the struggle intensify all differences. But since MM. Pashitch and Raditch willed a fresh election, an election Government had to materialise, and that this Government should be headed by MM. Pashitch and Pribitchevitch is perfectly intelligible, if one considers Yugoslavia's history up to the present.

The will of the two parties aforementioned, the two strongest in Yugoslavia, was also determining the course of the recent Government crisis. MM. Pashitch and Raditch had the same object in view, differing only as to method. M. Pashitch wanted to have the mandate for the election entrusted to himself. M. Raditch would rather anyone else had it than M. Pashitch. However, a General Election mattered more to him than the Parliamentary Session, and perhaps he also thought that even terror might help to swell his ranks.

An Attempted Way Out.

The King, no less than all political men not yet affected by party hatred, realised that general elections could only be harmful in their effect; that they would only render the existing differences between Serbs and Croats more acute. Painstaking and persevering efforts, therefore, were made to find a solution by compromise in the shape of a Cencentration or Coalition Government. But this proved impossible. M. Davidovitch could command a majority in the Skupshtina only on condition that he had the support of M. Raditch. And the Radicals, on their part, could not form a majority save by help of some group won over from the Opposition *bloc*. But the *bloc* remained united, and could not afford to do otherwise. Hence the key of the whole situation lay with the Radicals and M. Raditch.

The Radicals were prepared to come into a Concentration Government on condition of a split in the ranks of the extended Opposition *Bloc*. This would give them the majority in the Concentration Government, and place them in the position to ex-

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tort an electoral mandate for themselves at any given moment. In this way they would gain their object by a roundabout way, but with increased forces. To this the Opposition *Bloc* could not consent, and therefore was prepared to come into a Concentration Government solely on condition of a split in the Nationalist *Bloc*, as the followers of MM. Pashitch and Pribitchevitch jointly style themselves. All deputies indicted for corrupt practices were to retire, and the Pribitchevitch group was to be excluded altogether. To this the Radicals could not consent.

The Folly of M. Raditch.

The Opposition *Bloc* contended, moreover, that it ought to be entrusted with the construction of the Government, in virtue of the fact that it still commanded a majority in Parliament. As this was a fact, the Opposition *Bloc* was very near the point of gaining the day, when M. Raditch prevented this victory. He made a speech in which he insulted the King in most unparliamentary fashion, and fiercely attacked even the leaders of the Opposition *Bloc*. And when the leaders of the *Bloc* nevertheless succeeded in slurring over the painful impression produced by this harangue, M. Raditch spoke again and again, and yet more and more aggressively, until it came to be generally accepted that co-operation with M. Raditch was impossible—and with that all was prepared for a Pashitch victory.

One last effort was made to form a Concentration Government. The mandate to construct a Cabinet was entrusted to M. Timotivevitch, a Democrat. The Opposition *Bloc* believed this to be the last effort but one, and therefore refused even the moderated conditions of the Radicals. But it was the very last attempt, and the power of office passed into the hands of the less unyielding party.

The Pashitch Victory.

The new Government is now established; the Skupshtina is dissolved, and the new General Election is to take place on February 8, 1925. The Election Government is bent on making the most of its mandate, and for this reason the date of the elections has been fixed full three months ahead, the extreme delay permitted by the Constitution.

The electoral campaign has already been opened by a proclamation issued by the leaders of the late Government. It is sharply worded, but M. Davidovitch is one of the signatories, and so it is loyal and correct. The Slovene People's Party (Dr. Koroshets) followed suit with its own electoral appeal. But this, one regrets to say, bears the stamp of racial agitation, and shows only too plainly on what lines the campaign is to be waged. Yet all this is only preliminary skirmishing. Meanwhile in both camps preparations for the decisive encounter are being conducted with zeal and vigour.

The Nationalist *bloc* is to present a united front throughout Yugoslavia, in order to make the most of the electoral law, which favours the formation of large parties. The Opposition *bloc* is making serious efforts to ensure a similarly unified procedure, but without much prospect of success. All the same, it is clear that the main issue will be fought out between two groups alone. The *Zemlyoradnitchi* (Agrarians) will appear as a third group, and are almost sure to add to their number of mandates. With luck they may even quadruple them. It seems, by the way, as if the *Zemlyoradnitchi* were in a position to play the part of a Yugoslav Labour Party, so to speak.

The electoral campaign bids fair to be waged with exceeding bitterness, and bloody encounters are not improbable. What is not probable, however, is that either party will score an absolute victory. The upshot of the General Election will, in all probability, prove that for these years of foundation-laying in Yugoslavia a policy of compromise is the right one—the very opposite, in fact, of what the forthcoming elections are intended to show.

GREECE.

Athens, November 5.

Growth of Royalist Feeling.

For some days past some of the extra-parliamentary parties have been holding meetings to discuss the formation of a "common anti-Venizelist front." Since, however, there is no Venizelist party in Greece to-day, the term "anti-Venizelist" is altogether a misnomer. "Royalist" would have been more to the point. In a *communiqué* which they have addressed to the Press, the extra-parliamentarians state: "Anti-Venizelism represents the unanimous desire of all Greeks for an immediate return to normal political conditions and the integral re-establishment of the sovereignty of the people."

The committee which has been named to "re-establish the sovereignty of the people" includes M. Georges Streit, the late Grand Chancellor of Constantinism, but, strange to say, General Metaxas, who has a bigger following than any other Royalist leader, has been excluded from the committee. Obviously, there is a split in the Royalist ranks, and the new movement set on foot need not be taken seriously, for the time being at any rate.

General Kondilis, Minister of the Interior, is reported by the Athens papers to have said in connection with the doings of the Royalists: "The extra-parliamentarians can do as they please. They must, however, bear in mind that we will not allow anybody to shake the foundations of the Republic that we have established. The question of the régime has been definitely settled, and anti-Republican propaganda will find no echo amongst the people, which is thirsting for the end of internal troubles and a quiet life. In any case the State will not tolerate any movement intended to bring about a change of régime.

The Story of 1922.

General Papoulas, who was Commander-in-Chief of the Greek forces in Anatolia before General Hadjianesti (who was executed with the members of the Gounaris Cabinet) was appointed to that post, has just published a narrative of the events which led up to the Anatolian debacle. The General has also published a number of

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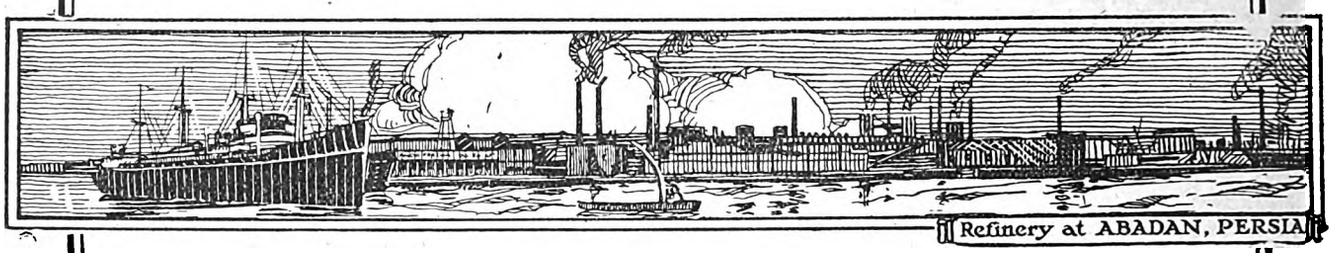

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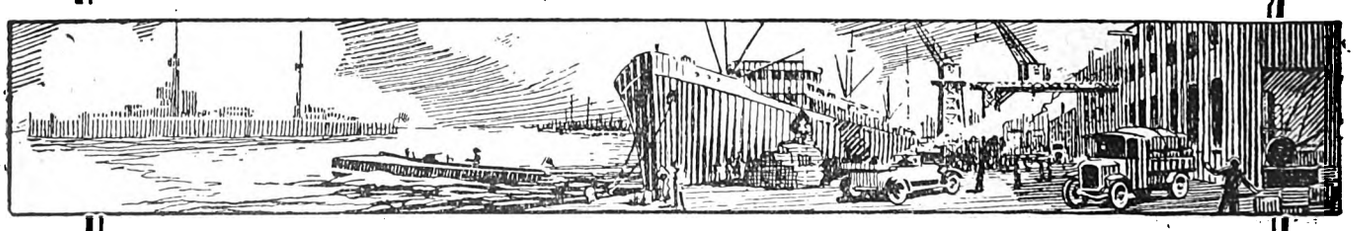

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official documents which are highly damning to the then (Constantinian) Government, and also to the High Commissioner in Smyrna. General Papoulas, who is a ranker, is a Royalist, and the purpose of the disclosures he makes is obviously to prove to the nation that he never allowed his political views to interfere with his duties as a soldier. The General's narrative is very long, and it is not possible to condense it into a few hundred words. The General's conversations with the late King Constantine and the then Crown Prince, later King George II., are characteristic. General Papoulas says that the day after his return from Smyrna in June, 1922, he called at the Palace and was immediately received by King Constantine. He reported to the King very fully on the situation at the front. Constantine seemed very interested, says the General, but he ventured no remark whatever. General Papoulas next called upon the Crown Prince, to whom he explained at length his views upon the military situation in Anatolia. The General quotes Prince, later King, George as having said: "General, I know everything, but what can I do? Imagine that the Minister (presumably the Minister of War) comes here and tries to get information from me. But what do you expect from a man who has no more brains here"—the Prince pointed to his head—"than here"—the Prince pointed to his stomach. Concluding, the Prince said: "General, in view of the latest developments, how much time do you think will elapse before the Army revolts?"

It has often been said that the deposed King on many occasions disagreed with the doings of the late King Constantine and his camarilla.

November 12.

The Exchange of Populations.

It is difficult to explain the indulgence of the European Press, or at least some sections of it, for the Turks in the matter of the exchange of populations. At the Lausanne Conference the Turkish delegates began, as is their wont, by bargaining. They first demanded that all the Greeks of Constantinople, without distinction of nationality, should be subjected to exchange. This demand was naturally rejected, and the Turks then proposed to make an exception only for the Greeks born in Constantinople, but this proposal was also set aside. After innumerable discussions, it was decided that of the Greek inhabitants of Constantinople only those who established themselves in the Turkish capital after October 30, 1918 (date of the Mudros Armistice), would be subjected to exchange. This decision appears in the official minutes of the sitting of the Lausanne Conference of January 10, 1923, where are quoted the speeches on the subject of Lord Curzon, Signor Montagna, and M. Barrère. In the course of the same sitting Ismet Pasha agreed that only the Greek inhabitants of Constantinople, who arrived in that city after October 30, 1918, would be subjected to exchange. It is in virtue of this accord that Article 2 of the Convention regarding the exchange of Greek and Turkish populations was drawn up, and according to which are exempted from exchange all Greeks established (*établis*) in the district of the Prefecture of Constantinople, of which the boundaries are fixed by the law of 1912, before October 30, 1918. It is not by chance that the term *établis* was used in the Convention. In the drafting of laws and treaties the term habitually used in cases such as that at issue is *domiciliés* (domiciled), but the legal meaning of this latter term is liable to misinterpretation. In order to avoid ambiguities the term *établis* was used. And now what has been the attitude of the Turks with regard to the *établis*? They have practically ignored the Mixed Commission instituted in accordance with Article II. of the Exchange Convention. They endeavoured, by dilatory means, by intimidation, and by creating a *fait accompli*, to impose upon the Mixed Commission an interpretation of the term *établis*—an interpretation altogether different from that accepted at Lausanne by Ismet Pasha, and also by Shukri Bey. It may here be added that, at Shukri Bey's request, M. Fromageot, French delegate, explained to him the difference between the terms *établis* and *domiciliés*. This happened at a meeting of the third sub-commission of the Lausanne Conference, held on December 23, 1922. The Turkish Government's treatment of the Greeks of Constantinople constitutes a flagrant violation of the rights of minorities, and, in the circumstances, the only course left open to the Greek Government was to demand the intervention of the League of Nations. Latest arrivals in Athens from Constantinople draw a very sombre picture of the situation in the ex-Turkish capital. The general opinion is that the Turks are digging their own grave. It is feared that the upshot of the Brussels Conference with regard to the *établis* will probably encourage the Turks to place more difficulties in the way of the Mixed Commission. The Turks, in their present frame of mind, it is thought here, will submit only to coercion, and they will continue to ignore Treaties till coercion comes. But whence will coercion come and when? This is the question which all the victims of Turkish bad faith are asking themselves.

The Refugees.

As was to have been expected, it is not all plain sailing with the settlement of the refugees in Greece, and particularly of those to whom land for cultivation has been allotted. It is more or less natural that the natives should look upon the refugees as intruders. Such has been the lesson hitherto taught the peasantry by Royalist propaganda. To-day, it is true, the Royalist Press is flirting with the refugees with a view to securing their votes at the next election, but this sudden *volte face* has not counteracted the effects of Royalist campaign against the refugees whose influx into this country was represented as the result of M. Venizelos' political mistakes. It is characteristic of Royalist manœuvres that the responsibility for all the political mistakes made in the Near East during the Great War is laid on the shoulders of M. Venizelos. During the past few days there have occurred collisions, happily not very serious, between peasants and refugees

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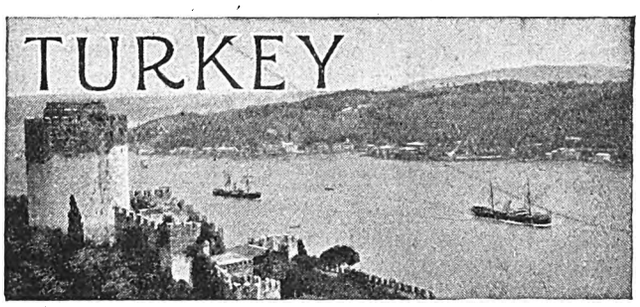
in different parts of the country. The refugee Deputies in the National Assembly have made capital out of these regrettable incidents to level absurd accusations against the Refugee Settlement Commission. The Premier, highly irritated at the tactlessness of the refugee Deputies, has taken up arms for the Commission, both in the Assembly and in the Press. The papers publish a statement of M. Michalakopoulos to the effect that if it pleases the refugee Deputies to talk wildly in the Assembly, he refuses to assume any responsibility for the effect their attitude may have on the refugee question. The refugee problem is certainly the most difficult problem any Greek Government has ever had to tackle, and it is to be feared many a Government will break its neck over it. The Refugee Settlement Commission has so far done everything it was humanly possible for it to do with the meagre resources it had at its disposal. The Commission is, so to say, an autonomous administration. It has at its head men of spotless character, and it would have nothing to gain by the interference in its affairs of the representatives of the refugees in the National Assembly. The Refugee Settlement Commission has so far been kept free of politics, and if any good is to come of it it must continue to keep aloof from politics, and to this end it is essential to keep Deputies at a distance.



Constantinople, November 10.

The Opposition in the Assembly.

The anticipated pother in the Assembly has come, but it has been a feeble affair. A number of incoherent discussions upon the shortcomings of the Government have led to the question of confidence being put to the vote, on which the Government has secured a majority of about 110 in a house numbering about 148 all told. There were 18 stalwarts who took their courage in both hands and filed into the opposition lobby, while another 20 odd refused to vote either way. A local paper has produced a cartoon which accurately sums up the situation. The cartoon represents the backs of three miserable-looking specimens of deputies listening meekly to the provocative harangue of an exquisite Effendi in the Speaker's tribune, while a gigantic figure of the President of the Republic is glowering upon the unfortunates from a box just above them.

The resignation of the three Army inspectors all in a bunch has produced a sensation, and the circumstances in which Kiazim Kara Bekir Pasha was sent back to hand over personally to his successor before presuming to sit in the Assembly have been the cause of some acid comments in the Press about the fallen greatness of the idolised military leaders of yester year.

The recent debates in the Assembly and the subsequent voting have produced in the minds of the public an impression of absolute futility. The criticisms levelled against the Government might have been really telling, had they been restricted to the things that mattered, and had the critics known how to marshal their damning facts instead of dissipating their eloquence in vain trivialities and personalities. The only result of the much-advertised offensive is that the Government has slipped through the crisis with a solid though formal majority of a vote of confidence, and every thing will go on as before. It is rumoured that the present attack is merely a curtain-raiser to test the feelings of the audience, and that the real soul-stirring drama will inevitably follow; all one can say is that if the drama is not more dramatically effective than the curtain-raiser, it is not worth playing. The claque will drown the cat-calls of the "gods" every time.

The Life of Constantinople.

There is little else of serious import to relate. One might recount for columns the serio-comic stories of the doings of the junior bureaucracy who are trying to grapple with financial, commercial, and administrative problems which are entirely beyond their comprehension. If one talks to the merchant who has to deal with the customs administration, or to the schoolmaster who deals with the department of public instruction, or to the shipping agent who deals with the Captain of the Port, one will hear the same story of crass stupidity from each and all of them. The cream of the joke, however, lies in the fact that these ingrained bureaucrats are not confining their attentions to the unfortunate foreigner now, but are beginning to worry their own people; there is a first-class war being waged at the present moment between the Customs and the rest of the Government, because the former insists upon detaining in the Custom House some official documents from the League of Nations, addressed to the Government, until certain obscure Customs dues have been paid, and not all the thunders of Jove will make them disgorge.

INDIAN ART IN PARIS.

Under the auspices of the India Society, the Association Française des Amis de l'Orient held a meeting at the Musée Guimet last week to hear a lecture by Capt. Gladstone Solomon, Director of the Bombay School of Art, on the revival of art in Bombay. The chair was taken by M. Philippe Stern, of the Musée Guimet, who said that Parisians were conversant with the new art movement in Bengal, but were anxious to hear what was being done on the Bombay side. The lecturer, after describing the methods that he employed in his school, and paying a tribute to the enthusiasm of his pupils, without whose co-operation, he said, the success achieved would have been not half so great, made reference to the encouragement he had received from Sir George Lloyd when Governor of Bombay, and to the latter's recommendations at the Wembley Conference organised by the India Society last May. These included the establishment of a Delhi prize somewhat on the lines of the Prix de Rome. This suggestion naturally interested the French audience, which included many students for India and the Far East. The lecturer also paid a tribute to the methods adopted by the French Government in their own colonies to preserve the native arts and crafts, particularly in Morocco and Indo-China.

The Hon. Secretary of the India Society, in moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, referred to the valuable co operation of the Association Française des Amis de l'Orient in arranging India Society lectures in Paris, and thus spreading a knowledge of Indian art.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

November 20, 1924 (New Style).
November 7, 1924 (Old Style).
Rabia' II, 22, 1343, A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Marheshvan 23, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Philip Grey-Egerton left last Friday in the P. and O. s.s. China for Bombay.

Sir Edward and Lady Boyle returned to 63, Queen's Gate, last Saturday from the Balkans.

Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Amery are in residence at 112, Eaton Square, which is now their permanent address.

The wife of Mr. Charles T. Allen, C.I.E., gave birth to a son on November 13 at Free Chase, Warninglid, Sussex.

M. Grégoire Michaesco, Commercial Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, on November 15, underwent an operation, and is making satisfactory progress.

Prince Bibesco, the Roumanian Ambassador to the United States, arrived at Plymouth in the Mauretania last Monday. Princess Bibesco has been in England some time.

Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught will leave London on December 4 for India. The visit is to be of a purely private character, and they will be the guests, for a time, of the Viceroy.

Colonel C. N. French, Assistant Director of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, left London by the R.M.S. Norman last Thursday for a tour in East Africa and India. He will be away for about five months.

The King has given authority to Mr. Edgar Felice, divisional engineer in the Egyptian Port and Lights Administration at Suez, to wear the insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile.

Among wills recently proved is that of Mr. George Gordon, of Karachi, India, manager of the Karachi Branch of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, which has been proved at £22,223.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Alfred James Chotzner, Indian Civil Service, to be a Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Calcutta, in succession to Sir Thomas William Richardson, Indian Civil Service, who is retiring from the service.

A marriage has been arranged between Major A. G. Biggam, O.B.E., R.A.M.C., son of the late Mr. J. Biggam and Mrs. Biggam, and Miss Margaret Frances Patch, eldest daughter of Major B. G. Patch, R.A.M.C., and Mrs. Patch, and will take place in December at Rawalpindi, Punjab, India.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Richard Henry Parker, Indian Civil Service (late Coldstream Guards), son of Mr. R. W. England Parker, of Oxford, and Mary, daughter of the Hon. Mr. H. E. A. Cotton and Mrs. Cotton, of 19, Theatre Road, Calcutta, will take place on December 8 in Calcutta.

The marriage arranged between Captain George Younghusband, 11th Hussars, only son of Sir George Younghusband, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., C.B., and Lady Younghusband, of St. Thomas's Tower, Tower of London, and Barbara, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Foster, of Egton Manor, Egton Bridge, Yorkshire, and 49, Pont Street, S.W., will take place at 2.30 p.m. on December 17 at St. Peter's, Eaton Square.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

M. Nikola Vulovitch has been appointed Secretary at the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

Vice-Admiral Sir Richard Webb, K.C.M.G., C.B., has been lent by the British Admiralty, at the request of the Greek Government, to reorganise the naval forces of Greece, the appointment to date from November 11.

The King has approved the appointment of Sir Montagu Sherard Dawes Butler, C.B., C.I.E., C.V.O., C.B.E., to be Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar, in succession to Sir Frank George Sly, K.C.S.I., whose tenure of office will expire in January, 1925.

The Secretary of State for India (the Earl of Birkenhead) has offered to Sir Muhammad Rafique a seat on the Council of India, in succession to Sahibzada Afmb Ahmed Khan, whose tenure of office has expired. Sir Muhammad Rafique, who is now in this country, proposes, with Lord Birkenhead's concurrence, to leave for India at once and to join the Council in March on his return to England.

Lieutenant-Colonel Claud J. Torrie, D.S.O., O.B.E., has been appointed Signal Officer-in-Chief for the Indian Forces. He is a Royal Warwickshire Regiment officer, who was transferred to the 30th Punjabis during the South African campaign, and served as adjutant to the regiment, and continued in the 10th Baluch Regiment. He was Inspector of Army Signalling in 1912 with the Northern Army, under Lieutenant-General Sir James Willcocks, and more recently was Assistant Director of Signals and Chief Signal Officer under Field-Marshal Sir Arthur Barrett and General Sir William Birdwood in Northern India.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1924.

HOW THE INDIAN PEASANT STANDS.

In his speech at the Guildhall last week, the Prime Minister defined accurately the attitude of the country, and not merely of his party, towards India, when he insisted that our object is the welfare of the peoples, and their peaceful progress in the paths of economic and constitutional development. Now that phrase, "the peoples of India," has a precise meaning of its own. The population can, indeed, be subdivided indefinitely on racial, cultural, or religious lines, but to the economist three-quarters of the whole form a single class, and to him India means primarily the mass of peasant-producers, the many millions of families who make some sort of a living on holdings ranging in size from three to thirty acres, and whose collective interests far exceed those of all other classes taken together. Mr. Baldwin holds out the welcome prospect of a regime of steadfastness combined with insight, and its inception is a suitable occasion for examining the peasant's position in the India of to-day. How does the peasant stand? What does he want? How can his needs be met? The answers given to such questions as these must form the basis of any stable policy directed to the economic progress which the Prime Minister promises. It must, we think, be admitted that the peasant has lost ground in the period of transition through which India is passing. Twenty years ago Lord Curzon could justly describe him as the first and final object of every Viceroy's regard: as a measure of the recent change, it is enough to refer to the attitude of the Central Government in the debates on the tariff question, when their spokesmen lightly brushed aside the peasant interest in favour of the urban majority which dominates the legislature. The first and final object of Lord Curzon's regard is scarcely worth mentioning in the Delhi of to-day.

Under the existing Constitution, however, the real guardians of the peasant's interests are ministers in the provincial governments, and so far the record of these ministers is, speaking broadly, a record of inefficiency in administration, and of failure in leadership. One obvious result has been the loss of skilled experience; men who have learned their work in India, and who should now be giving her their best, are to be found scattered over the world, in Australia and South Africa, in Europe and America, where they have obtained more congenial employment under masters quick to recognise their worth. Some such result was perhaps inevitable when administration was first entrusted to inexpert hands, but to set against it there was the hope that Ministers of Agriculture would put themselves at the head of the peasants, and thereby acquire such a hold over the country-vote as to make rural interests predominate in the provincial Councils. So far that hope has been disappointed. Ministers have as a rule failed to escape from the obsessions of their urban environment, their attitude has been that of the townsman who would like to do something for the peasant, but who does not ask what the peasant wants, they have not cared to put their ears to the ground, and consequently they have not acquired a following in the country, or produced even programmes, let alone results, which could make a popular appeal. In this respect failure was not inevitable; the chance was there, but the men failed to take it; and as yet there is no ground for pessimism, because, though valuable time has been lost, the chance is open still, and in one province or another we may at any time witness the emergence of a peasants' tribune, who from the nature of the case would enjoy the position of practical Dictator.

For it must not be forgotten that the Constitution has offered to the peasants power such as they have never held throughout the historical period. Even with the restricted franchise now in force, they are in a position to return, if not an absolute majority, at any rate by far the strongest group in each provincial Council, and united effort in the constituencies would enable them quickly to choose their tribune from among their disciplined representatives. But to expect them to do this at once would be asking too much of human nature. The centuries of economic servitude have left their inevitable mark, and while Indian peasants know that things have changed, they have not yet realised that their destinies are now in their own hands. It is hard for servants to learn to be masters, and so far they have been offered little help. In the existing environment they can hope to find very few effective representatives within their own class, and even were more of them available, they could not at first hold their own among the quicker urban wits. It is among the latter that the peasants must for the time being find their representatives, and the men whom they have chosen have hitherto, with very few exceptions, done little to justify the confidence reposed in them, accepting their votes but offering promises only in return, promises which quickly evaporate in the atmosphere of the provincial capitals. It would, however, be a great mistake to draw pessimistic influences from the actual position without taking account of the tendencies at work. The momentary evil is likely to work its own remedy in time. Even now, we suspect, the villages are weighing in their deliberate fashion the promises of an immediate millennium, which were scattered so lightly by extremist candidates in the election of a year ago. In Indian villages the outlook on life is narrow, hard, and realistic: credit, when it is given at all, runs only for a short term; promises are expected to be promptly fulfilled; and it would be by no means surprising if, even at the next election, representatives who bring only overdue obligations should find themselves subjected to the stern and summary discipline which the village expects from others, and which it is accustomed to execute in its own affairs. It is in this direction that we must look for progress, whether economic or constitutional. When urban politicians realise by experience that they have duties to their rural constituents, duties which can be enforced at the polling booths, we shall be at the beginning of that union of urban insight with rural steadfastness, which is even more needed in India itself than among its distant rulers. Development on these lines may be slow, but it is the greatest hope for the future, and it is not too much to ask that true Indian patriots, who are still seeking for the most effective ways of rendering service to their motherland, may be led to concentrate their energies on the task of its acceleration.

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AL MAGHRIB.

By F. W. CHARDIN.

Bang! The sunset gun at last!

Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar! God is Greatest!

The cry of the muezzin swells out loudly, the last syllable of each invocation trembling in the hot June air, a cry exultant, joyous, compelling, almost eerie. It rises from the domed roof of the little mosque up the by-street on my right.

Thousands of souls have been waiting the last half-hour, prepared and expectant, for that sound, and as I pass up the narrow street in the bazaar, the shopkeeper brings out from the recesses of his lock-up cavernous store a pitcher of water and some flat cakes of bread, and after washing his parched mouth, takes a slow, deep, ecstatic drink. All the other Muslim shopkeepers are doing the same thing, and the street is almost deserted, for the world and his wife are in their houses or with their friends performing the same rite.

And so the first thought that that call to evening prayer brings to the generality of Muslim minds is that of food and drink, and small wonder, too!

Doubtless, there are many pious souls assembling in the mosque, or preparing on their housetops to perform "Salat al Maghrib," the sunset prayer; but the Nasrani cannot see them, and to his limited vision the whole world appears to be preparing to satisfy the demands of the inner man.

Ashadu an la ilaha illa Allah! Ashadu an la ilaha illa Allah! Ashadu anna Muhammad ar rasul Ullah! Ashadu anna Muhammad ar rasul Ullah! I testify that there is no god but Allah! I testify that Muhammad is the Apostle of Allah!

Again the voice rings out confident and certain, breathing the soul and spirit of Islam, the creed of the Believer, the declaration of the Divine Unity, and of the high mission of his last and greatest Apostle, his final Prophet bearing a revelation to the sons of men.

The shopkeeper crosses the narrow street to the soot-stained, noisome-looking cavern of the kabab roaster, and, buying skewers of these succulent morsels of roast meat, straight from where they have been frizzling over the continuously fanned charcoal embers, bears them wrapped in a page of the *Tatler* to his shop, produces from an inner recess some cucumbers and a piece of white cheese containing chopped celery-like morsels, and makes ready the meal of which he will shortly partake.

This city on the western bank of the Tigris has sprung to life. During the daylight hours of this day in Ramazan the streets have been unusually silent, for many have been sleeping off the effects of last night's feasting, the better to pass the hot hours of the day of fasting in oblivion. And now! The coffee shops will soon be crowded with a throng, chatting, smoking cigarettes, and drinking tea and coffee; the *chalghiji* in café and theatre will be strumming on his lute or tapping his drum, the streets will be thronged, and life and bustle will last almost until morning light.

It is the time of Al Maghrib, the hour most fraught with relief and joy in the whole Ramazan day; here in the farthest north-east of the Arabic-speaking world, it is a time of mirth, and of laughter, and of awakening out of sleep.

* * * *

Bang! The same sound, the same cry, rises and floats over the city.

"Say! What's that?" in an unmistakable accent.

It is about eleven months later. I am sitting in the reading-room of a European hotel in a seaport town in Morocco, perusing a Spanish journal. I look up and behold a young American lady tourist, complete with horn-rimmed spectacles. She is addressing a similarly equipped lady friend who is just outside the door.

I volunteer my explanations of the sounds that she has heard. She is voluble in her interest and thanks at the information I have given her about something she has never even heard of before. When I tell her that she will have plenty of chances of hearing and seeing it before she goes, she informs me that she only arrived this afternoon and is off again to-morrow afternoon.

And so I tell her that unless she is up and about at daybreak to-morrow, the best course for her is to go on to the roof of the hotel about noon, whence she will be able to see the muezzin and hear the azan without fail.

It is Al Maghrib in Bilad ul Maghrib, the hour of sunset in the Sunset Land, the farthest west where the sacred Arabic tongue is common speech, and the faithful are settling down to break their fast in the name of Allah. The same sights and sounds will take place as hereinbefore described; the faithful will eat, drink, and be merry, for to-morrow they must fast; and the fair American will perhaps remark how quiet are to-day's streets compared to last night's, as she rides round the town with her party each mounted on a donkey.

The same report which, only a few hours ago, rose from the old Turkish cannon by the Tigris, rolled over the ruins of ancient Assyrian might, to be lost among the bleak mountains of northern Kurdistan, now rises from the Kasbah, rolls over the narrow Straits, perhaps strikes that great monument of modern British might, the Pillar of Hercules, to be lost amongst the hills of Spain. The same exultant *Allahu Akbar!* which greets the traveller by the ship of the desert coming in from his journey from the city of the Khalifs across the desert wastes, strikes the ear of the mariner entering the Straits in his great ship of the deep on his voyage over the great wastes of the ocean from the new lands of the West, maybe from the country of the young lady with horn-rimmed spectacles.

From the land where the memory of one of the greatest of the "Successors" is enshrined in the Arabian Nights to the land where "Success" is the guiding principle of life may seem a far cry, but the land of Al Maghrib, with the adjacent regions of Western Africa, is the nearest point of the Old World to that New World of boundless possibilities, and at the time of Al Maghrib, east and west of the Muslim world meet under the setting sun and the rising crescent moon to proclaim with one voice *Allahu Akbar!*

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Percy Sykes, who commanded in Southern Persia during the last three years of the War, has been granted the honorary rank of brigadier-general on his retirement from the Army.

The Wahhabi Sultan of Nejd has invited the Moslem Supreme Council in Palestine to send a depuation to the Moslem Congress which he has summoned to meet in Mecca to make regulations for the Pilgrimage.

Official news has been received in London of a fatal air crash in Iraq on November 12. A Sopwith two-seater Snipe, No. F 2,499, belonging to No. 1 Fighter Squadron, crashed at Hinaidi aerodrome near Baghdad, resulting in the death of the pilot, Flying Officer Ellis Reid, and serious injuries to Lieutenant W. H. E. Cotter, of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

The War Cross erected by the Imperial War Graves Commission in Basra Cemetery was unveiled by Air Commodore Dowding on November 11 (Armistice Day), the service being held at a parade of Royal Navy, Army, and Royal Air Force units. Basra War Cemetery is one of the four permanent cemeteries in Mesopotamia, and contains about 2,500 graves, and the cross erected there is similar to those erected in the British War Cemeteries in France and Belgium.

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Near East Bookshelf.

A FRENCH GIRL IN THE CAUCASUS.

"IN THE LAND OF THE GOLDEN FLEECE." By Odette Keun. (London: The Bodley Head. 7s. 6d. net.)

This is a very curious, unusual, and fascinating book. It is the most subjective book of travel that we have ever met. The author tells us herself that her idea of a book of travel is one "composed of one-fifth personal aesthetic emotion, two-fifths facts that the traveller has learned and wants to teach others, and that all the rest is pure endurance and fury." Take the first as two-fifths and the second as one-fifth, and a good enough idea of her book is obtained. Only the "personal æsthetic emotion" is generally so real and geniune that it becomes a medium through which one sees the queer, lonely, and picturesque Georgia and its (usually) very lovable but hopelessly impractical inhabitants far more clearly than would be the case if she had devoted more space to the ordinary descriptions and facts which one usually meets. The subject of her book is the northern provinces of Georgia, and one sees them through her eyes and across her moods. Now she is fresh and well; now she is tired, cross, and worn out for want of sleep; now she is full of her own vague socialistic and theological ideas; now she is (and she often is) in a furious rage. And every mood brings out new views of places and people, and in the end the reader feels that he has been with her and actually sees what she sees, and knows the people as if he had been living with them. It is not easy to find a short quotation which does her justice, but perhaps this one of her experiences in the houses of the inhabitants of Khevsouretia (which must indeed be a province exceedingly difficult to move about in, and inhabited by singularly unpleasant people):

But to know the quintessence of a Khevsour house one must spend a night shut up there, when it is raining among the mountains and the dogs are howling outside; when the damp draws a pungent, poisonous odour from the earth and dung walls; when the smoke from the fire and from the resinous torches stings one's blinded eyes like a thousand darts; when from sheepskins, blankets, and the clothing of the hosts runs an unfailing stream of vermin, and legions of fleas jump from the cracks of chairs; when the effluvium of the cattle rises through the trap-doors and mingles with the exhalations of human dirt and sweat; when one cannot rise without knocking one's head against the rafters, nor move about the floor without falling through a hole; and when, to crown all, the Khevsourebi smoke in this dark and narrow space, spitting in all directions, and the rigorous etiquette of Georgia forbids you to request them to abstain from this sociable manifestation.

Every evening I made the same prayer: "Dodi, for pity, for justice, for love! Tell them that I am a barbarian, that I have no idea of good manners, that in my savage country I was so badly brought up that I cannot even understand the supreme propriety of expectoration. Dodi! I shall faint! I feel that from my head to my toes I am clothed in saliva. Dodi! in the name of all the saints of Sakarthvelo, tell them, tell them, tell them to stop spitting on me for one minute!"

And Dodi would turn his tortured, obstinate face to my bench and I would know before he uttered it the melancholy and final word that he was going to say, against which, when a Georgian pronounces it, nothing may prevail, neither reason, nor justice, nor peril, nor love—*Neoudobno* ("It is not seemly; it is not done.").

"Dodi" was Lieutenant Prince David Chavanavadzy, who had been detailed by the Georgian Government to look after the comforts and facilities (?) for travel of this young French lady of thirty-two who insisted on visiting dangerous and inaccessible places. He seems to have been a young gentleman of singular charms and engaging uselessness, knowing no fear, loyal to his charge, but finding the lady (specially in her—frequent—tantrums) difficult to understand, lazy and yet almost perfectly tireless, resourceful by fits and starts, but usually incredibly unpractical. Her own story makes it clear how she bullied the poor lad and how bitterly he resented it, though far too much of a gentleman to betray his real feelings. Near the end of the first trip recounted in this book she, with some justification, lost her temper with him. But she did more. She actually struck him across the face. The poor boy went straight out of the room and shot himself. Fortunately, his life was saved. She seems to have gone into hysterics and to have felt that it was unkind and unpleasant for Dodi to have acted as he did.

Dodi's successor was Captain Prince George Tsereteli, known as "Grisha," a splendidly handsome cavalry officer of twenty-eight. Poor Dodi's history was by then known to everyone in Tiflis, Mlle. Keun's name being unpleasantly connected with it, so that Grisha undertook his task with much distaste. He appears to have done his duty nobly, if not very cheerfully, but her frequent rudeness to him must have been very trying. However, as in Stanley Weyman's stories, the final result of the constant propinquity of the two young people was a kindling of ardent love on the part of Grisha, which explains the curious dedication of the book to him "in token of my admiration for the high national qualities which, revealed by him during our union, have made me love still more the admirable and virile race he so admirably represents."

And a fine race the Georgians evidently are. It is their tragic fate, however, to be entirely devoid of discipline or cohesion. The results of this terrible defect are being seen to-day in their vain undisciplined efforts to free themselves from the Bolshevist yoke. A perusal of this work makes one wonder whether the awful anguish they are undergoing will lead them to adapt themselves to habits better suited for the task of self-preservation. Mlle. Keun's account of them refers to a period only four years back.

Not the least interesting parts of the book are those which throw light on the curiously pagan beliefs and rites of the tribes living in the mountains, where Christianity provides only the thinnest of veneers.

The almost riotous use of simile and metaphor by the author in her descriptions has made the task of the translators very difficult. The use of French forms of words perfectly well known in English, such as "Strabon" for "Strabo," ought to have been avoided. The map given is in French, and gives the names of hardly more than two of the places mentioned in the book.

But there is no mistake that anyone who desires to know what manner of a country Georgia is, and what the Georgians are like, *must* read this vivid and almost overwhelmingly truthful book. There is no trace of any kind of propaganda about it.

C. S.-W.

VARIEGATED VERSE.

"PILAU; BEING LAYS OF EAST AND WEST." By A. W. Black. (London: Stockwell. 3s.)

Mr. Black has been extremely happy in his choice of title, which needs no explanation to

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readers of The Near East, in which, incidentally, some of these verses first appeared.

Mr. Black, who seems to have modelled himself as a craftsman on Kipling and W. S. Gilbert, has a facile flow of language, a pretty eye for form, but not so fine an ear for rhyme, and, best of all, a marked ability in the construction of narrative poems. He really gets on with his stories—mostly military—of the East with excellent gusto, and with any luck such tales as "Binting," "The Shah's Highway," or "Cholera" should be popular soon in peace-time messes. It is this form of versifying in which Mr. Black should, we think, persevere, for in others he has lapses either of manner or of matter which exclude him finally from any claim to distinction.

Undoubtedly these verses must have been good fun in the writing, but one's estimate of them as they appeared in magazines and as they appear together in permanent book form must differ. Some of them, to put it frankly, do not deserve republication.

One word on Mr. Black's taste. It is, e.g., the inclusion of "Eve's Daughters," hardly impeccable. And of his ear, let us say, as Scotsmen, that "armour" does not rhyme with "drama," nor "moor" with "war," nor "lawn" with "sworn."

On the whole, with the exception of the narrative poems, the very jolly verses concerning the Romney Marsh at the end of the book are to be liked the best.

As an example of Mr. Black's descriptive ability may be given three stanzas from his "Thumbnail Impressions of Mespot":—

A colourless expanse of shifting sand,
A river that does nothing else but twist,
A clammy, sweaty, sticky, steamy mist
Enveloping this God-forsaken land.

A kingfisher nose-diving from the blue,
A P-boat, churning up the angry silt,
A house that Jacko (wisely) never built,
In regions Cæsar (wisely) never knew.

An Arab maiden, busy straſing fleas,
A brass hat on a charger passing by,
A painted hussy giving the glad eye:
A thirsty Tommy drinking Japanese.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Gilmour of the Mongols." By W. P. Nairne. (London: Hodder and Stoughton, Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Tom Dobson." By Nicol Macnicol, M.A., D.Litt. (London: Hodder and Stoughton, Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Adventures in Turkey and Russia." By E. H. Keeling, M.C. (London: John Murray. 10s. 6d. net.)

"The Himalayas in Indian Art." By E. B. Havell. (London: John Murray. 12s. net.)

"Flower of the Desert." By E. R. Rashid. (London: Hurst and Blackett, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE HOLY MOUNTAIN OF ATHOS.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—I plead guilty to a very unsatisfactory "hand of write," and have some sympathy with the compositor who calls the *monochrome* reproductions of Mr. Hasluck's water-colours in his book on Mount Athos *many more;* but surely he should not have converted my regret for the want of historical *record* of conventual settlements on the Mount to the longing for a *covenant*"? I write with all humility, and shall try to present fewer puzzles next time.—I am, etc., C. S.-W.

[Although having sympathised with the compositor, we offer our bewildered apologies to the writer, whose review appeared in The Near East of November 6.—Ed.]

OBITUARY.

The death occurred on November 15 at Ashburnham Lodge, Hellingly, Sussex, of Mr. Frederick T. Murdoch, for thirty-six years H.M. British Consular Agent at Mansourah, Egypt.

Miss Ruth Salisbury, aged 39, who had long been engaged as a missionary in India, died during the homeward voyage of the Indian mail steamer Caledonia. She was ill when she embarked at Bombay, and died when the steamer was in the Red Sea. She was buried at Port Said.

A correspondent writes:—

By the death of Mr. William McDouall, who passed away peacefully in his sleep at Khanikin in Iraq on November 2, at the age of sixty-nine, the British community in Iraq and the Persian Gulf have lost one of their oldest members. He was the son of the Rev. W. S. McDouall, rector of Owsden, Suffolk, and Grace Maria Dalrymple Hay his wife, and descended on both sides from old Galloway families—McDouall of Freugh and Dalrymple Hay of Dunragit Park, Wigtonshire. He was educated at Uppingham under Dr. Thring, and in 1875 went to the Persian Gulf on appointment to the Indo-European Telegraph Department. He served at Jask, Charbar, and Fao among other stations until his appointment in 1889 to Mohammerah, where he was the first incumbent of the Vice Consulate established there in 1891 in connection with the opening of the Karun to ships of all nations. He held this post, which was subsequently raised to the status of a Consulate, till 1909, when he was transferred to Karmanshah in a similar capacity. On his retirement in 1917 from the Consular Service he served in Mesopotamia as Assistant Political Officer at Badrah near the Persian frontier till 1921, when, after a short visit to England, he took up his residence at Khanikin, where, until the date of his death, he acted as adviser on local affairs to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited.

His kindly, though retiring disposition, and his intimate acquaintance and sympathy with Oriental ways and thought endeared him to a wide circle of Arab and Persian, as well as of British residents, at Mohammerah, where he spent the best part of his life, and enabled him to do valuable pioneer work in connection with the first beginnings of British trade in Arabistan. He was for nearly forty years a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society, and during his long residence in the Gulf had amassed a curiously varied stock of information on local topics, and on local languages, to the study of which he devoted in early days much of his spare time.

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THE BEYROUT-BAGHDAD ROUTE.

On November 14, at the Royal United Services Institution, Whitehall, Major D. McCallum, late British liaison officer in Syria, lectured to the Central Asian Society upon "The Discovery and Development of the New Land Route to the East," Sir Charles Yate being in the chair.

Major McCallum began by showing how the idea of traversing the Syrian Desert by motor-car came to Mr. Palmer, British Consul in Damascus, and to himself, and how, in April, 1923, they, in company with Mohammed Ibn Bassam, a wealthy Baghdadi, who had been carrying on trade in contraband between Syria and Iraq, first made the journey between Beyrout and Baghdad. Directed by one of Ibn Bassam's guides, they started out, a convoy of three cars, one Lancia, one Buick, and an Oldsmobile (the last two being borrowed from the Nairn Brothers). But for the fact that the Lancia, owing to its not having as much clearance between the chassis and the ground as had the other two American cars, got stuck on a rock, the journey there and back was uneventful. It was obvious from this preliminary trip (which, incidentally, and incredible to the Baghdad ears, included British ladies) that the route could be made a commercial success.

Mr. Norman Nairn immediately saw the possibilities of the route. He soon collected round him, not only his brother Gerald, the finest motorist the lecturer had ever seen, and one whose prowess was a Middle Eastern by-word, but such men as Lovell, Ash, and so on, all of them ex-Service men, who had come from all parts of the Empire. Major McCallum paid a striking tribute to the hard work that the Nairn Transport Company had put in, and suggested that, although the mail-service had rightly been given to this company, that was not enough. In view of the fact that rival native companies, which could employ men who could live "on a handful of olives or dates a day," were undercutting the Nairn, and because Syrian companies, working with French capital, could run their services more cheaply than the purely British concern, he suggested that the Nairn should be granted a subsidy. In spite of these things, however, the Nairn Transport Company remained the sole example of successful ex-Service enterprise in the Middle East.

This trans-desert service—the lecturer denoted its stages from the Beyrout hotel through the Damascus bazaar on to Rutba Wells, Ramadi, Felluja, and so to Baghdad—was being extended to Teheran, a three days' journey. It brought Baghdad within nine days of London, and, consequently, India within fifteen or sixteen days. He pointed out that a route through British mandated territory alone was impracticable, owing to the presence, for about sixty miles east of Amman, of lava on the soil. But the authorities in Syria gave the Nairn company every assistance: General Weygand well understood that its development brought good money to French hotels in Syria!

The motor service was cheaper and more efficient and as quick as the air route to Baghdad (which, moreover, was but fortnightly); and with the sea route there was, of course, no comparison. Finally, he lamented the unwillingness of British motor manufacturers to enter the Middle Eastern markets. There was, he said, no British car built for desert work—the chassis being always too low—and meanwhile American and Continental cars ruled the roost. He had been unable to dissuade British manufacturers from the idea that this was unremunerative "stunt" work.

The lecturer illustrated his talk both with some excellent stories (e.g., that of the Americans who jumped in a Ford in Jerusalem and gave the simple but fatal instruction "To Baghdad"; and that of Major Holt's twelve days' tour across the desert in a Trojan) and with lantern slides. These showed clearly the character of the desert and the few though serious difficulties presented by it.

Subsequently questions were asked concerning the possibility of extending this new route on to India through Baluchistan, of lowering the rates of the Nairn Company to meet the competition of the native services, and of macadamising the trans-desert route. The chairman concluded the meeting with a reiteration of the lecturer's praise of the Nairn Company, and suggested that from the spirit in which employers and employed in it worked, a valuable lesson for the whole Empire might be drawn.

MR. EDWIN MONTAGU.

The death occurred on November 15 of Mr. Edwin Montagu, ex-Secretary of State for India. He was born in 1879, and, having entered politics in the Liberal interest, was appointed by Mr. Asquith in 1910 Under-Secretary for India. From that date onward his connection with India remained more or less unbroken, the climax of his career being reached with the publication, in 1918, of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report. The events of the latter part of his life, dealing with Amritsar, the place of Indian Moslem opinion in general of British polity, his dismissal from office, and so on, are too well known and excite too painful memories to be recapitulated here. Controversy still rages over his real position in the history of Anglo-Indian relations.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

India and the Exhibition.

According to reports from India, it appears extremely probable that India will not participate in the Exhibition if it is decided to continue it for a second year. Needless to say, the absence of India would be most regrettable, for an Exhibition purporting to be an Empire Exhibition would be lamentably incomplete in the circumstances. It is true that India's exhibits this year were an inadequate presentation of the great resources of the country, but that very fact, and the knowledge that particularly good business was done in the Indian pavilion would, one would think, inspire India to emulate the example of Mr. Britling, and see it through.

The Fate of the Fair.

It would seem probable that the continuance of the Exhibition may mean that there will be no British Industries Fair next year. A decision on the matter is not yet forthcoming, but the fact that the necessary publicity work has not been begun speaks for itself. In a sense, of course, the Fair is unnecessary if there is an Exhibition, but it would all the same be a pity to spoil the continuity of this annual event. Why not hold the Fair at Wembley as a part of the Exhibition in the same way that the various towns have a week to show their characteristics?

A Yugoslav Banking Development.

I learn with interest that the foreign department of the Slavenska Banka of Zagreb has been reorganised and enlarged. An Anglo-American section has now been established with a view to meeting the demand for increased facilities on behalf of the bank's clientèle in the United States, Great Britain, and the Dominions.

Sudan Plantations' Progress.

The work that is being done by the Sudan Plantations Syndicate in the rapid development of cotton growing in the Sudan was the subject of a most interesting review by Mr. Eckstein in his speech at the general meeting of the company. In view of the fact that, as he pointed out, the company is still in the stage of development, and that in the Gezira the past season was a bad cotton year, the statement of the company's position can only be regarded as highly satisfactory. Next year will see the completion of the Makwar Dam, and Mr. Eckstein stated that he hoped to be able to announce in 1926-27 that the company had 100,000 acres under cotton in the Gezira.

The 300,000 Acres Area.

Mr. Eckstein went on to state that they had remodelled to some extent their previous scheme for twenty stations on the 300,000 acres area. This acreage has been divided into nineteen stations to facilitate the necessary water control. Ploughing has been commenced on the extended areas, and out of the 300,000 acres the development of 225,000 has been completed and the canalisation of 200,000. Two-thirds of the housing programme for the nineteen stations has been finished, and the remainder will be finished by July. The requirements in ploughing engines, etc., are mostly on the spot, while of the syndicate's four new big ginning factories the first one will be completed by the end of this month, the second by the end of December, and the two remaining will be finished some time next year. This brief summary of the progress of this immense undertaking speaks for itself.

Anglo-Persian Report.

Special interest always attaches to the report of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. The report now presented, which is given elsewhere, is of a very satisfactory nature. The net profit at £2,507,867 is not very different from that of the previous year, and the dividend paid is again 10 per cent., which absorbs this time £895,000, as compared with £777,764, while the carry-forward, subject to taxation, is £1,746,643, as against £1,777,788. The report with regard to developments is satisfactory. Further drilling in the Persian main fields has led to a large increase in the extent of proved oil-bearing territory. Drilling operations have been continued outside the main fields, and at Kishm oil of very high quality has been found in small quantities, but it is too early as yet to form any definite idea of the value of this field. In addition, in the Argentine several good oil and gas wells have been struck, and the receipts from the sales of oil and gas are now more than sufficient to meet all current expenditure.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Activity in Futures.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended November 6, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has continued to show great firmness and activity; the net changes on the week are the following :—Sakellaridis : $1.12 up for November, $0.40 up for January, $0.15 up for March, $0.05 up for May, $1.30 down for November, 1925. Ashmouni : $0.15 up for December, $0.10 down for February, $0.70 down for April. Despite a distinct falling off in the demand from abroad, our market has remained as firm as ever. The causes of this strength are those referred to in our previous reports, very little hedge selling, and the high prices paid on the spot, the latter being due to the fact that the local supplies are not yet sufficient to meet the covering of the sales made during the summer and early months of the season. Holders of stocks are, moreover, in general in a fairly good financial situation, and seeing the market rising almost daily, naturally do not press the sale of their cotton. New York fluctuations have been altogether ignored here, and the result is that the premiums of Egyptian cotton over American have further widened, and now stand at $20.41 for Sakel and $7.13 for Ashmouni, the difference in exchange not being taken into account. At the first November tender no dockets were issued. The week's receipts amount to 399,991 krs., against exports 351,236 krs.; the stock stands at 1,501,556 krs.

Spot.—A good business has been done at Minet el Bassal this week, and sales amount to about 31,400 B/s, of which we estimate 17,200 B/s Sakel, 5,800 B/s Uppers, 7,000 B/s Zagora, 1,000 B/s Pilion, 250 B/s Brown, and 150 B/s White. Arrivals continue heavy, but the movement is much freer in Lower Egypt than in Upper Egypt where many growers still refuse either to sell or gin their crops.

Sakellaridis : All styles have been dealt in, though the grades below good fair have met with only a poor inquiry. Spot premiums are slightly easier for fully good fair and good; for good fair and below they are distinctly cheaper, but for the qualities above good they are well maintained and inclined to harden. The spot position is generally a little easier, but sellers are still difficult to deal with. We think the high prices demanded at present for Sakel are making business very difficult and cutting down the demand from spinners.

Uppers.—There has been business in all grades. Spot premiums are steady and inclined to harden, the grades above good especially so.

Lower Egypt Zagora has again been in good request, mainly in the medium and good qualities. Spot premiums are steady, and for the good grades are inclined to harden.

Pilion has been in active request, and there has been keen competition for the few available lots of good cotton offered. Spot premiums all round are very much dearer and extremely irregular.

Brown.—A moderate business has been done. Spot premiums are generally much dearer, especially for the better qualities.

White.—A fair business has been done. Spot premiums are rather easier for fully good fair and below, but a little dearer for good.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Business Still Quiet.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended November 15 states :—

The quieter conditions reported during the last two or three weeks have continued during that under review. It is still believed that foreign markets are in need of much larger supplies than they are actually taking, and the conclusion generally arrived at is that there is not sufficient confidence that current prices will be maintained. Whether the reduction is expected to be brought about by lower costs of yarn and cloth production or cheaper raw cotton are matters on which there is much divergence of opinion.

Yarn.—Further details are now available with regard to the ballot of spinners of American yarns referred to last week. The question to be put to spinners is whether they are in favour of restricting working hours by $8\frac{3}{4}$ hours per week as from December 1. If this were carried, the working hours would then be $39\frac{1}{4}$, as compared with 32 at present. The volume of operations has been smaller during the past week, and the position of spinners has, if anything, weakened. Egyptian spinnings remain steady, in spite of heavy fluctuations in the raw material, and only a modest turnover. Shipments of yarn last month were 13,454,100 lb., compared with 11,316,200 lb. in September and 14,733,500 lb. in October last year.

Cloth.—Business booked for India during the past week has been of comparatively small dimensions, and, consequently, the tone in this section has suffered, since minor outlets, however good, cannot compensate for slackness in the Indian department. For Egypt and the Near East quite an encouraging business has again transpired and other smaller markets have also been fairly active. Shipments of cloth last month amounted to 364,293,900 sq. yds., against 359,971,300 sq. yds. in September and 371,289,700 sq. yds. in October last year.

Raw Cotton.—The Bureau Report published on Saturday last was quite favourable, the condition being given at 55.9 per cent. and the indicated yield 12,816,000 bales, of which 9,695,000 had already been ginned. Although these figures were considered satisfactory quotations have increased during the past week. In Egyptian there have again been wide fluctuations in "futures," and this section does not appear to have yet settled down to a stable level of values. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows :—American middling, 13.87; Egyptian fully good fair, 25.50.

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Engineering Topics.

A New Tractor.

All who are familiar with conditions in regions such as the Near East realise that one of the great needs in regard to agriculture and for other purposes is for a tractor which can operate, however rough the roads are, and, most important of all, where there are no roads at all. In regions such as the Sudan, Mesopotamia, Palestine, and Turkey its utility is particularly obvious; it is no less an essential in regions like the Balkans, where, speaking generally, the conditions of transit leave a good deal to be desired.

A tractor specially suitable for work in regions such as those enumerated has now been constructed, and on November 12 demonstrations of its potentialities were given before a large gathering which included official representatives at the Sentinel Waggon Works at Shrewsbury. The tests were very varied in character, and the way in which the tractor overcame difficulties such as deep mud, steep gradients, etc., was most impressive. The tractor, which is the combined production of the Sentinel Waggon Works and the Roadless Traction, Limited, of Hounslow, has a number of notable features, a brief description of which may be of interest. The outstanding characteristic of the tractor is its chain track. The boiler is of the super-Sentinel vertical water-tube type, and it is stated to be equal to evaporating 1,800 lb. of water per hour. It has been tested hydraulically to a pressure of over 1,100 lb. per square inch without showing any structural weakness, and can be operated with any head of water. The power unit is a horizontal engine entirely enclosed and self lubricated, and will develop between 60-65 h.p. As regards the weight distribution of these units, it is to be noted that over the front wheels there is practically no weight at all. The boiler is well back, the engine is close to it, and over the top of the engine is the water tank which carries the necessary feed-water for the boiler. That means that the main weights of the vehicle are concentrated almost directly over the weight-carrying bogeys of the roadless track. The disposition of the weight-carrying axle of the track unit is such that the weight on the front wheels is only sufficient to enable the machine to steer, and therefore the wheels do not impose any serious limitation when crossing rough or soft ground.

The "track" (the endless chain of metal shoes) has its plates made of steel castings. The links are of forged steel suitably heat-treated. The joints consist of a hardened and ground steel pin working in a hardened and ground steel bush. The links are so machined that after the bush, which is spherical on the outside, is inserted in the bore of the male end of the link, the metal can be pressed over the spherical portion, so forming a simple and efficient form of universal joint. This pressing operation, which necessitates approximately 75 tons, has the effect of consolidating the metal and providing a highly polished surface in contact with the bush. A chamber is provided in each link for holding lubricating oil, which is fed to the joint through the hollow pin. To prevent the loss of oil and the intrusion of mud and water a cork seal enclosed in a stainless steel ring is fitted. A driving tooth is formed on the top of each link, its position being such that it is practically impossible for stones to lodge between the track and sprocket. The link is rivetted and welded to the shoe plate as a final operation, the welding serving the dual purpose of joining the two parts and making an oil-tight closure of the oil chamber. The universal movement between adjacent plates is limited in every dimension to the maximum required in actual operation by the interlocking stops at the outside edges of the plate. The effect of this construction is that, in addition to being able to bend round the sprocket and idler, the track can flex laterally, and each shoe-plate can adapt itself to the general lie of the ground it rests on. When bending round sprocket and idler the working joint is the pin in the bush; when flexing laterally or rocking transversely the working joint is the spherical outer portion of the bush in the pressed over link.

The bogie (the assembly of rubber-tyred rollers in the centre of the track unit) carries four rubber-tyred cast-steel rollers mounted on Hyatt roller bearings. The rollers have flanges which, by contact with the sides of the track links, keep the bogie in correct alignment with that portion of the track which is on the ground. The bogie is universally mounted in a bracket carried by the axle, and is, therefore, free to work in a fore and aft or transverse direction to accommodate itself to the angles assumed by the track plates on uneven ground. In addition, the universal mounting permits the bogie to turn as about a vertical pivot, which is necessary when the vehicle is steering. The weight of the vehicle is transmitted to the bogies through semi-elliptic springs and an axle which carries the brackets in which the bogies are mounted. The bearings and spindles used in the rollers and idlers are identical, as also are the special asbestos seals which protect these bearings from mud and water. This simplifies the supply of spare parts. In steering, the track is actually laid in a curve without any slip or skid over the ground surface. As the track is picked up at the rear by the sprocket, correct alignment and true meshing of the teeth is ensured by making the sprocket sufficiently wide to allow the track to float over sideways. The bogie, being universally mounted, is free to turn at the slight angle to adapt itself to the curve of the track.

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GREECE AS A CHEMICAL MARKET.

Greece can scarcely be considered an industrial nation, and, therefore, the demand for a complete line of industrial chemicals is non-existent (says an American Consular report). The country does, however, make large quantities of soap, which creates a need for such chemicals as are required in its manufacture. There are, of course, other manufacturing establishments using chemicals, but factories such as textile plants and leather works are, relatively speaking, small both in number and in capacity.

The output of the chemical industry had a valuation of approximately 161,000,000 drachmæ in 1921 and 454,300,000 drachmæ in 1923. These figures, however, include the important Greek olive oil, soap and glass industries, and are, therefore, not primarily chemicals and not treated in this article.

The total imports of industrial chemicals for the years 1922 and 1923 are not available at this time as the preliminary statistics record only the more important commodities. Because of adverse conditions, political and otherwise, the imports of chemicals as specified in 1923 showed a rather marked falling off—43 per cent.—from the total importation of 32,600 tons in 1922.

Sulphur is by far the largest single item imported, and is supplied almost entirely by the near-at-hand source, Italy. Copper sulphate, the next in importance, has been coming chiefly from Great Britain, as the British brands are very well known on the Greek market. This article is used most extensively as a spray, particularly for currant bushes.

Next in volume comes the item recorded as "sodas," which probably includes sodium bicarbonate, carbonate, sulphate, and silicate. Undoubtedly, most of the caustic soda imported is utilised by the soap establishments. The total production of soap in 1923 amounted to 20,000,000 kilos, a reduction of one-quarter from the previous years. Lesser quantities are consumed by cotton factories and bleacheries. The United States has not entered this market to any extent.

Ammonia anhydrous and carbonic acid gas find extensive sale throughout Greece for refrigerating purposes. Both of these commodities are manufactured to a limited extent locally, but the imported is usually preferred to the domestic.

Carbonic acid gas is received chiefly from Germany and Great Britain, the imported product being used for refrigeration and the domestic largely for carbonating water and soft drinks.

Outside of copper sulphate, there is little call for insecticides, in spite of the prevalence of pests of all kinds. The 1923 importation, 2,704 kilos, comprised mostly of French brands, evidenced a decrease of one-third from 1922. The Greek Government has been so busily engaged with its colonisation of the refugees that such vitally important activities as fumigation and disinfection have been forced to one side. However, the need, always existing, is growing, with the result that the longer neglected the greater the amounts of chemicals required in the end. At the present time, so far as is known, there is only one concern engaged in industrial fumigation work. This confines its activities to the extermination of rats, vermin, and similar pests in warehouses and other buildings.

Primarily an agricultural country, Greece is not as yet a large consumer of chemical fertilisers. The ten years since the introduction of chemical fertilisers have not been conducive to the growth and development of the industry. The consumption in 1923 reached a total of 20,000 tons, and with the elimination of adverse factors, the use of chemical fertilisers is expected to increase greatly. The great bulk of the consumption is covered by one local factory, which has a capacity of 50,000 tons. The actual production in 1923, however, amounted to but 18,218 tons, of which 9,683 tons consisted of superphosphates, and 8,535 tons, mixed fertilisers. In addition to the receipts of raw phosphates about 1,200 tons of ammonium sulphate, 800 to 1,000 tons of sodium nitrate, and 500 tons of potassium sulphate are imported annually to be manufactured into mixed fertilisers.

Quinine, one of the Greek Government monopolies, is the item of leading importance in the drug, medicinal, and pharmaceutical group, large amounts being required for the treatment of malaria and similar diseases which are so prevalent throughout the country. In 1923 the United States supplied 12 per cent. of the total imports of 26,240 kilos; Germany, 41 per cent.; and the Netherlands and Netherlands East Indies, 32 per cent.

There is also considerable demand for other drugs and medicinal specialities, of both foreign and domestic manufacture. Those in special use are iodides, bismuths, bromides, fluid extracts, glycerophosphates, essences, and alkaloids. Although the domestic industry is young, its development has reached such a stage as to offer keen competition in certain lines, but separate figures covering the production are not available. Of the imported goods, Germany and France supply the bulk for most lines, while Italy finds favour when it is a question of quick delivery. Most of the serums come from Switzerland.

The Greeks run rather true to type in the use of toilet preparations, and are especially addicted to perfumes. Men as well as women of the so-called middle and upper classes are large users of these articles. With the exception of the manufacture of small quantities of eau de cologne and other inferior grades of perfumes, such as musk, rose, and lavender, the domestic industry has not assumed the importance it might have done—especially considering the fact that alcohol and orange and lemon extracts, which are the principal ingredients of the Greek eau de cologne, are obtainable locally. Athough accurate statistics are not available, it is estimated that there are upward of 20 small plants throughout the country producing low grades of eau de cologne. The output is limited, however, and serves exclusively local demands. A number of small druggists also make eau de cologne for sale in their own shops, while perfumes are made in the home, for home use only and not for sale. The individuals gather the flowers, place the petals in hermetically sealed bottles containing pure water, and set these bottles in the sun. After a couple of weeks the product is ready for use.

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It is reported that Ceylon will not take part in the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley next year.

The output of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended November 7 was Gemsah, 19 tons; Hurghada, 3,236 tons.

The India General Navigation and Railway Company has declared an interim dividend of 2 per cent. on the ordinary shares and 2½ per cent. on the Preference shares, both free of tax, payable on November 28.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Anglo-Persian Oil.

The report of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Limited, for the year ended March 31, 1924, states that the profit for the year, after allowing for depreciation, debenture interest, home charges, and royalty, amounts to £2,507,866 15s. 9d., to which has to be added the balance brought forward from 1923, £1,777,788 3s. 2d., less corporation profits tax for 1923, £104,011 9s.—£1,673,776 14s. 2d., making a total of £4,181,643 9s. 11d., from which the following appropriations have been made:—Extra depreciation, £415,000; debenture stock redemption reserve, £100,000; preference share reserve, £150,000—£665,000. The following dividends, less income tax, have already been paid:—For the half-year ended September 30, 1923—1st pref. shares at 8 per cent. per annum, £280,000; 2nd pref. shares at 9 per cent. per annum, £157,500; for the half-year ended March 31, 1924—1st pref. shares at 8 per cent. per annum, £280,000; 2nd pref. shares at 9 per cent. per annum, £157,500; and the directors now recommend the payment on December 31 next of a dividend on the ordinary shares of 10 per cent. per annum, less income tax, absorbing £895,000—£1,770,000, leaving a balance of £1,746,643 9s. 11d. to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty, if any, for the year ended March 31, 1921, and the corporation profits tax for the year ended March 31, 1924. An issue was made privately in March of this year of £2,000,000 6½ per cent. five-year secured notes at 99 per cent., secured by deposit of £2,500,000 debenture stock as collateral security.

The subsidiary producing companies, the Bakhtiari Oil Co., Limited, and the First Exploitation Co., Limited, have continued to show very satisfactory results. Further drilling in the Persian main fields has led to a large increase in the extent of proved oil-bearing territory. The output of crude was steadily increased during the year to meet the expanding capacity of the company's refineries. Outside the main fields drilling operations have been continued, and at Kishm oil of very high quality has been found in small quantities, but it is too early as yet to form any definite idea of the value of this field. In the Argentine several good oil and gas wells have been struck, and receipts from sales of oil and gas are now more than sufficient to meet all current expenditure.

The throughput of the refinery at Abadan, in Persia, was disappointing during the year under review, work being impeded by the outbreaks of cholera and plague referred to in the last report. Since the close of the financial year the throughput has steadily increased, and has now reached the maximum figure for which the plant was designed. At the refinery at Llandarcy in South Wales a considerably increased throughput has been dealt with, and a steady improvement has been effected both in working costs and in refining results. The new plant to deal with light distillates is now in full working order, and the results are entirely satisfactory. All the refineries erected by the associated companies are now in operation.

The fleet of tank steamers owned by the companies' subsidiary, the British Tanker Co., Limited, has continued to work satisfactorily during the period under review, and has been kept fully employed. The sales of products through the company's distributing organisations show a continuous and satisfactory increase.

Assam Railways.

The report of the Assam Railways and Trading Company for the year ended March 31, 1924, shows that the gross earnings increased by Rs.98,395, and the expenditure by Rs.1,73,588. The directors have decided that the present year provides a suitable opportunity to alter the previous system, and to include in the revenue account all dividends declared and received on account of the period covered by the accounts, instead of only those actually received before the date of the balance-sheet. The present accounts therefore include in some cases more than twelve months' dividend. The general revenue account shows a profit of £137,778. After payment of debenture interest and allowing for all preference dividends, there remained £81,833. The directors, after providing £50,400 for service on the "A" stock, recommend a final dividend of 6 per cent. on the "B" stock, making 8 per cent., writing £5,000 off discount on debentures, leaving £2,433 to be carried forward.

PROTECTION OF INDIAN STEEL INDUSTRY.

H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India reports that urgent representations have been made to the Indian Tariff Board for the further protection of the Indian steel industry, in order to compensate that industry for the low prices which have been obtained in India for steel manufactured locally, owing, firstly, to a rise of over 12½ per cent. in the rate of exchange, and, secondly, to the fact that Continental steel exporters have not raised the c.i.f. prices of their goods since the recent imposition in India of protective duties on steel goods.

In this connection the following two points have been specifically referred to the Tariff Board for their consideration:—1. To what extent, if any, and in respect of what articles or classes of articles, the import duty should be increased, and (2) whether the duty should be increased generally or in respect of such articles when imported from or manufactured in any country or countries specified.

It is understood that the representations to the Tariff Board refer particularly to common bars, light rails (under 30 lb.), and structural sections, and that competition in these articles is keenest from Germany, Luxemburg, and Belgium.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Sofia reports that the surtax leviable when Bulgarian Customs duties are paid in paper currency will continue to be levied at the existing rate until December 31 next—i.e., 15 paper leva must be paid for each gold leu of the Tariff.

The Secretary in Charge of Commercial Affairs at H.M. Legation, Teheran, Persia, is anxious to receive United Kingdom periodicals and journals dealing with agriculture and technical subjects, such as carpentry, engineering, and the motor-car industry, as well as sports magazines. These are required for display in a recently established club in Persia, and it is anticipated that a perusal of such periodicals by members of the club will stimulate local interest in British manufactures.

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Company Meeting.

SUDAN PLANTATIONS SYNDICATE.

Continued Progress.

Further Capital Requirements.

The seventeenth ordinary general meeting of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Limited, was held on November 12 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Mr. F. Eckstein (the chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary, having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen,—As the directors' report and the accounts have been in your hands for some days, I suggest we adopt the usual practice and take them as read.

This is our seventeenth annual meeting, and for the seventeenth time I have the privilege of addressing you and putting before you a statement which I trust you will find not wholly unsatisfactory, in spite of the fact that we are still in the stage of development, and that in the Gezira, through no fault of ours, the 1923-24 season has been a bad cotton year.

On the other hand, at Zeidab, our most northerly plantation, we had a good cotton year, and this, combined with the ruling high cotton prices, enabled this station to give us a fair return for the money invested there.

In the Gezira we suffered from three misfortunes. The first adverse factor was "blackarm," which is a bacterial disease. The second was "thrips," which is an insect pest, and No. 3, our ginning factory at Wad Medani was completely gutted by fire in the middle of our picking season. Our headquarters staff in the Sudan, however, rose to the occasion, and within four weeks we had more than half of the gins running again, and two weeks later the remainder. When you consider how remote Wad Medani is from the resources of civilisation you will, I think, agree with me that this was a notable achievement.

As regards the blackarm, we were hopeful at the beginning of the season of having found a way to stamp out this disease by a special treatment of our cotton seed, but I regret to say blackarm has again made its appearance this year, and we have to try some other expedient.

For the thrips we have likewise so far found no remedy.

The Balance-Sheet.

If you will turn now to the balance-sheet you will see that our capital has been raised from £450,000 to £600,000, and to-day the whole of the 150,000 new shares have been issued and paid for, with the result that the share premium account stands to-day at £1,013,000, as against £805,883 on June 30, the end of our financial year.

When your board decided in May this year to raise fresh working capital, I noticed in the Press remarks to the effect that shareholders would be well advised if they would find out why all this money was required, considering that our concession had nearly run out. Well, ladies and gentlemen, our concession has not yet begun, and for the rest I can assure you that this additional money is not required for a joy ride.

When raising the capital of our syndicate in March, 1920, from £300,000 to £750,000, I stated that in all probability the whole of this increase would in time have to be issued.

This is exactly what is going to happen, and in time I shall have to come to you again for more money by the issue of the remaining 150,000 shares. May I say at once that when this takes place we hope to put before you a scheme for the rearrangement of our capital, which I have no doubt will gain your full approval, and which will do away with our share premium account?

Whilst on this subject, I can tell you that we have now all the money in hand for the completion of the development and equipment necessary for the 300,000 acres area. We have, however, still to provide for a sufficient working capital, and, to give you an idea of our requirements in this respect, I want to mention just one or two items.

Advances to tenants during a full working year will amount to roughly £400,000.

Railway carriage and steamer freights to bring our cotton home (leaving cotton seed out of my calculation), £400,000.

Ginning expenses, including sacks, bags, salaries, and other incidental expenses, will likewise run into several hundred thousand pounds.

These figures need not frighten you; they do not alarm us, because the more we have to pay in this respect the better we shall be pleased, as big expenditure under these headings can only mean big cotton crops.

The Hosh reserve account has been increased from £80,000 to £140,000.

To the Wad Nau reserve account we have put down—being the first year in operation—the sum of £70,000.

Staff Provident Fund.

Our staff provident fund stands now at £22,500, provided you again sanction this year's contribution of £7,500 towards this most necessary item.

Your board is now engaged in working out a scheme by which we intend to change the present basis into a mutually contributory scheme.

Roughly, the idea is as follows:—

Approved members of our Sudan staff will be allowed to become members of a provident fund to be invested in trustee securities in the names of trustees. To this fund equal contributions on the basis of a percentage of salary will be made by the employee and the company, and, on leaving the service of the company, a member of the fund will receive a capital sum representing his own accumulated contributions, *plus*, subject to good conduct and length of service, a proportion or the whole of the accumulated contributions made on his behalf by the company.

If we succeed in establishing this basis, and if our staff agrees to these conditions, the present fund will disappear, and we shall use the whole of this money by granting paid-up policies to some of our older employees, who have borne the burden and the heat and ups and downs of the leaner times during which we were learning our experience.

It is hardly necessary for me to commend this action to your favourable consideration, as we have and always have had an excellent and loyal staff, for whom we cannot do too much.

Creditors total £207,000, against £129,000 last year. Most of this has been settled since we closed our books.

Installation Expenditure.

On the credit side you find an increase of about £5,000 in the Zeidab Pumping Installation Account, due to the completion of the new Diesel engine.

Heavy additions had to be made to the general development account as well as to canalisation, buildings, and furniture, agricultural implements, and light railway accounts, all due to the progress made with the big scheme.

Stock of cotton figures at £337,000, against £123,000 the year before.

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Our total shipments of cotton came to 17,679 bales, of which we had only disposed of 8,221 bales on June 30. Our valuations for the unsold stock were naturally based on conservative lines. Within the last few days we have sold the balance of our stock, so that we are now starting with a clean sheet for the coming crop.

Stocks of stores and materials are about the same as last year.

Kassala Cotton Company.

You will notice that our shareholding in the Kassala Cotton Company is unchanged.

At the annual meeting of this company, held in May this year, the chairman explained to the shareholders that the board had some uneasiness regarding possible activities on the part of the Italian Government in Eritrea.

These difficulties still exist, but negotiations are in progress on the subject, and we still hope for a satisfactory settlement.

Meanwhile, I can inform you that the Kassala Cotton Company have this year—their first year—something like 15,000 feddans under cotton.

One very pleasing feature in connection with our work there is the apparent keen desire of the native population to become tenants under our partnership scheme. As a matter of fact, tenants offered themselves for more than double the area for which water was available.

Cotton Cultivation in Brazil.

A new item under this heading is 15,000 sharess in the Brazil Plantations Syndicate, and, regarding this holding, I would like to say a word or two, as it has been mentioned to me that our taking an active part in this new undertaking showed a feeling of distrust in our Sudan venture. Ladies and gentlemen, nothing could be farther from the truth; we always had, and still have, the greatest confidence in the Sudan as a cotton-producing country, and our work there and the results we have achieved so far speak for themselves.

It is, however, our ambition gradually to make our syndicate into a holding or parent concern.

The prospects for profitable cotton-growing in the world are good. You can pick and choose interests in other parts of the globe, and we have for this purpose the best staff in the world, and why should we not make use of this advantage? In this matter, too, please do not be alarmed, as your board is guided by conservative principles and acts with caution.

Now, ever since I have been connected with cotton-growing, I have made it my business to keep *au courant* with what is going on in other countries in this respect, and for years past I have been convinced that in time to come Brazil will be one of the really big cotton-growing countries in the world.

For the moment the Brazil Plantations Syndicate has acquired two small estates, one the Fazenda Santa Emilia and the other Fazenda Cayua, with an area of 8,500 acres.

The Brazil Plantations Syndicate is fortunate to have our colleague Lord Lovat as its chairman. He hopes to pay his second visit to Brazil early next year, and I hope to accompany him.

Financial Position.

To return to the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, our financial position is good, as the figures in our balance-sheet show.

Now, if you will look for a moment at our profit and loss account, you will see that our total gross profits amount to about £251,000. Against this our general expenses and cultivation expenses are a good deal higher than last year, owing to a largely increased staff and owing to the duplication of our cotton area.

As mentioned before, we have again provided, as we do every year, a bonus to our staff. This item, as well as the addition to the staff provident fund, I warmly recommend to your approval.

The net profit after liberal writing off is therefore £113,000. Against this we paid you in July an interim dividend of 10 per cent., amounting to £45,000, and we now propose to pay a final dividend of 10 per cent., which will amount to £60,000, absorbing £105,000 in all.

From the directors' report you will have seen that the balance carried forward stands now at the splendid figure of £176,500. It has been the policy of your board gradually to build up this reserve with the idea of having a dividend equalisation account, and we shall not hesitate to draw thereon in case of need.

Our business is an agricultural one, which means that we are subject to good and medium crops—we never have had an entire failure—and we therefore consider it wise to take precautions.

Work at the Stations.

Now a word or two about the work done at our stations.

At Zeidab we have completed the new installation of a Diesel oil engine, and the plant is working satisfactorily. We believe that the plant will result in considerable economies in running expenses.

As already mentioned, we have had a very satisfactory year, and, as far as I can judge at present, the coming season promises to be an equally good one, as we have picked already about 11,500 kantars and shipped 1,000 bales, part of which is already sold at a fair price.

In the Gezira, on the other hand, unfortunately, for the reasons already stated, our cotton crop from all stations has not been good, as I saw myself, and it resulted in a yield of just under three kantars per feddan.

This year we have a similar acreage, viz., about 20,000 feddans, under cotton in the Gezira, and the latest reports from our managing director are, I regret to say, not altogether satisfactory, inasmuch as both blackarm and thrips are again general over all our Gezira cotton fields. Luckily, so far, blackarm does not appear to have done much damage, but thrips are on the increase. To summarise, I would call our prospects for this season fair.

The Sudan Government has in June this year given us definite notice that the Makwar Dam should be completed next year, and that gravitation water will be supplied to

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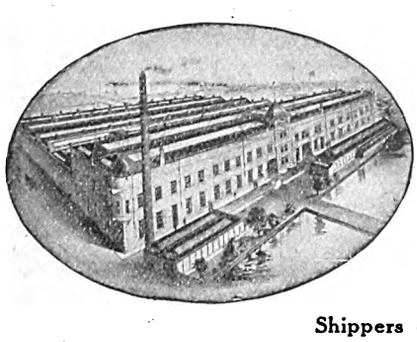
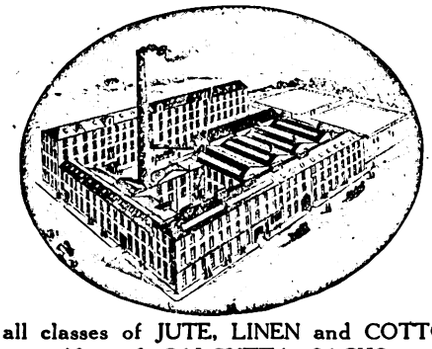
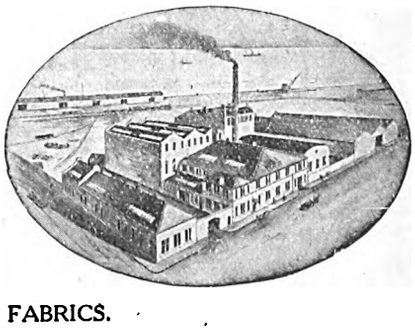

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us in time for the 1925-26 crop. If this forecast proves correct, it will mean that our concession will date from July, 1925, which is important for you to know and to make a note of.

In these circumstances, we are working to have a very considerable area ready for cultivation in July, 1925, and if all goes well I hope to be in a position to announce to you in 1926-27 that we have achieved what we originally set out to do—viz., to have 100,000 acres under cotton in the Gezira.

The 300,000 Acres Area.

In this connection I may tell you that we had to remodel to some extent our previous scheme for 20 stations on the 300,000 acres area. We have added this year to our report a plan showing a division of this acreage into 19 stations. This was done to facilitate the necessary water control, which is a highly technical matter and on which I need not enlarge.

We have started ploughing on the extended areas, and I feel sure you will be pleased to hear that of the 300,000 acres we have completed so far the development of 225,000 acres and the canalisation of 200,000.

In our housing programme, viz., houses, offices, stores, etc. of the 19 stations we have finished about two-thirds, and the remainder will be finished by July next year.

Our requirements in ploughing engines and other heavy implements are mostly on the spot and in working order.

Of our four new big ginning factories, the first one will be completed by the end of this month, the second by the end of December, and the two remaining will be finished some time next year.

I hope to add next year to our report a picture of this enormous installation.

Our staff had naturally to be largely increased, and it may interest you to hear that we have sent during the last 12 months 36 new inspectors, besides several engineers, and their health has been fairly good. The first year is always the most trying one for a newcomer to the Sudan.

Research Work.

At our last annual meeting I mentioned that a Commission, consisting of Sir John Russell, of Rothamsted, and of Dr. Martin Leake, of India, and now principal of the Trinidad Research Station, had been appointed for the purpose of advising the Sudan Government, the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, and your syndicate regarding scientific research work relating to cotton planting.

Their valuable report has been handed in, studied, and adopted in most of its recommendations. The three parties mentioned contribute towards the expenses. We, on our part, undertake the running of a seed farm under an expert.

Our relations with the Sudan Government are good, and our work has been unaffected by political conditions.

Cotton Possibilities in the Nuba Mountains.

During my annual trip to the Sudan at the beginning of the year, Mr. MacIntyre, our managing director, and I paid a visit to the Nuba Mountains Province, which is situated between the White Nile and Kordofan, with a view to investigating the possibilities of cotton-growing in that district.

It is our considered opinion that in years to come this province will prove a valuable cotton-growing area, and, whether we have anything to do with it, or not, a large amount of cotton will be grown there.

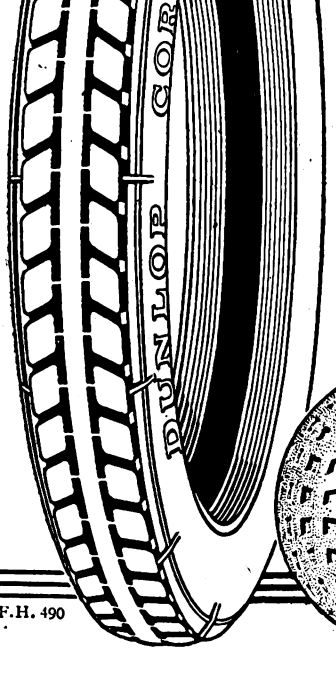
You have there the three essentials necessary for success in this respect, viz.:—

1. Large tracts of land with good cotton soil.
2. The necessary rainfall for germinating the seed and ripening into cotton.
3. Real cotton climatic conditions.

On the other hand, you have, as in every new country, considerable difficulties to contend with, chiefly the lack of communications. There are also other points which require careful study and investigation. But when all is said and done difficulties are there to be overcome, and, as mentioned before, I hope I shall live to see in the Nuba Mountains a flourishing cotton industry. What the Sudan really wants is money for the construction of lines of communication free of interest for a number of years.

This practically completes my review of the past year's work; it is a work of surpassing interest, and worthy of bringing out the best of any man connected with it.

I have now only to pay my yearly tribute to our entire staff. As in the preceding years, they have done their



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very best in the interests of our syndicate, and they all deserve a hearty vote of thanks.

Ladies and gentlemen, I beg to move:—"That the report of the directors and statement of accounts to June 30, 1924, now laid before the meeting, be and that the same hereby are received and adopted."

I will ask Mr. Hutton to second the motion.

Prospects of the Cotton Trade.

Mr. J. A. Hutton.—Ladies and gentlemen,—I think that, after the very excellent and very interesting speech we have had from the chairman, very few words from me are necessary. I am very glad that he reminded you that cotton growing is agriculture, and, as most of you who have had anything to do with agriculture know, there are ups and downs; you will have good and bad seasons. We are, however, making steady and continuous progress. There is another point we must not forget: the buyer always has the last word in these matters. We have to grow the cotton that the spinner wants, and I am glad to say that the cotton we are growing is just what the spinner wants. I come from Lancashire, so that I know what I am talking about, and I have no hesitation in saying that there is an unlimited demand for the class of cotton we are growing. There is always plenty of room at the top, and as long as we continue to grow a good type of cotton we shall have no difficulty whatever in marketing our products.

Perhaps I might tell you something else that possibly some of you know; there is a distinct improvement in the cotton trade, and it is coming from the right direction—demand from the ultimate consumer; I mean the exporter of cotton goods to different parts of the world. I have no hesitation in saying that the prospects of the cotton trade are infinitely better than they have been at any time during the last four years.

There is just one other point. This is not a political meeting, but I think we ought to give praise where praise is due. I think the attitude of the late Government, as shown by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's letter, on the question of the relations between the Sudan and Egypt was excellent in every way, and I sincerely hope, and have every confidence, that the new Government who have just come into office will follow in the same way. We all want to see a fair agreement with Egypt, but at the same time we have got to look after ourselves and our own interests in the Sudan, and there must be no weak giving way for the sake of getting temporary peace. There is only one way of dealing with Easterns; you must be absolutely fair, you must be absolutely just, but you must be absolutely firm, and I have every hope that that is the attitude which the Government will adopt. I have very great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and the dividend recommended was declared.

The retiring directors, Sir Lionel Phillips, Bt., and Mr. D. M. Hannay, were re-elected.

In moving the re-election of Captain Bernard Eckstein as a director of the company, the Chairman said that the work had so much increased of late that it had been found necessary to have another whole-time director in the office, and the board had appointed his son to that post. Captain Eckstein was no novice in the business. He had several times accompanied him (the speaker) in his visits to the Sudan, and knew exactly the work that was being done there, and he was known to most of the company's officials. He should therefore prove an acquisition to the board.

Mr. D. M. Hannay seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co. were re-appointed auditors, and a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff concluded the proceedings.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-⅝
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	254-259
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	318-322
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	23.92-24.10
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5⅞ 1.5$\frac{61}{64}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	95.65-96.25
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	845-860
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	344-348,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5⅞-1.5$\frac{61}{64}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	830-845
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.61-4.63⅝
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	87.60-88.20
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	154½-156
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	106.42½-107.25
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	628-635
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	326-329,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	23.95-24.10

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

SHIPBUILDING BY VICKERS.

The G. W. Humphreys, the second of the two sludge vessels ordered by the London County Council from Vickers, Limited, in March last, was launched from the Naval Construction Works at Barrow-in-Furness on November 13. The first of these two vessels, the J. H. Hunter, which was launched on October 2, will be completed by the end of this month.

The G. W. Humphreys is similar in all respects to the J. H. Hunter, the dimensions of the vessel being as follows:—Length B.P., 260 ft.; breadth moulded, 43 ft. 6 ins.; depth moulded, 16 ft. 10 in. The vessel is built to the requirements of Lloyd's Register to Class 100 A1, and to the Board of Trade requirements.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Olympia for Bombay (Liverpool, November 22). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Masirah for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 29).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 3).

British India Line.—S.s. Mirzapore for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 6); s.s. Mashobra for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 4).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Sparta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 29).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Dido for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, and Smyrna (London, November 29).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 22); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 6); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 27).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London, November 29); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 13).

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Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia:—
Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdah
Chief Office, TEHERAN.
Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah
Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan)
Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - - £5,013,834

HEAD OFFICE:
Basildon House, Moorgate, LONDON.

GREECE.
Central Office:
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Local Head Offices:—
CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.

Manager in London:—
S. A. H. SITWELL, Esq.

Authorised Capital - - Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - - Rs. 5.62.50.000
Reserve - - - - - - Rs. 4.57.50.000

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Registered in London under the Companies Act of 1862, on the 23rd March, 1866.
Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... ... £4,000,000 | Paid-up Capital £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... ... £4,000,000 | Reserve Fund £2,750,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

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Aden, Aden, Steamer Point, Amritsar, Bombay | Calcuttta, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Cochin (S. India) | Colombo, Delhi, Kandy, Karachi | Lahore, Madras, Mandalay, Newera Eliya | Rangoon, Tuticorin, Zanzibar | Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru (Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)) | Entebbe, Jinia, Kampala (Uganda)

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The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.

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CAPITAL PAID UP - Drs. 30,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 29,266,341.40

The assets include securities worth £1,000,000, which are valued at Drs. 25,000,000; that is, at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larrissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea, Zante, Plomari, Tripolitza.

Associated Bank in London:

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The Bank conducts every kind of Banking and Stock Exchange business, and extends special facilities to merchants and traders interested in business with Greece. It acts as Agent for many Foreign Banks. It is specially organised for Exchange transactions, the execution of mail and cable transfers throughout Greece, and for the collection of clean and documentary Drafts and Bills.

MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT.

The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

BANK of ATHENS

Head Office: ATHENS.
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INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £3,900,000.

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COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
SIR ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
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LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, Esq.
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Chief Manager—W. E. PRESTON.

Managers—J. S. BRUCE and G. MILLER.

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AMRITSAR	HAIPHONG	MADRAS	SHANGHAI
BANGKOK	HAMBURG	MANILA	SINGAPORE
BATAVIA	HANKOW	MEDAN	SOURABAYA
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	NEW YORK	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PEKING	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
CANTON	IPOH	PENANG	TIENTSIN
CAWNPORE	KARACHI	PUKET	TOKYO
CEBU	KLANG	RANGOON	YOKOHAMA
COLOMBO	KOBE	SAIGON	ZAMBOANGA
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The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

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Head Office: 2 & 3, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £340,000

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors:

J. S. HASKELL, Esq. (*Chairman*).
SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
J. H. BATTY, Esq.
EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
SIR PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

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F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Nazareth.
MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta, Gibraltar.

Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000
Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000
Reserve - - - - - - - £720,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - - - - - £3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - £2,325,000

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†KALYAN	9,000 ...	Nov. 21 ...	— ...	Straits, China, Japan
*MOOLTAN....	16,000 ...	Nov. 21 ..	Nov. 23 ...	Colombo & Australia
CALEDONIA ...	8,000 ...	Nov. 28 ...	Dec. 5 ...	Bombay & Karachi
*MOREA .....11,000 ...		Dec. 5 ...	Dec. 12 ...	Straits, China, Japan
NARK'NDA.....	16,000 ...	Dec. 12 ...	Dec. 19 ...	Bombay & Karachi
†NANKIN.....	7,000 ...	Dec. 18 ...	— ...	Colombo & Calcutta
†KASHMIR.....	9,000 ...	Dec. 19 ...	— ...	Straits, China, Japan

* Taking passengers for Bombay, via Aden. † Calling at Malta.

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(Under Contract with the Govts. of India and Queensland.)

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‖ MULBERA ...	9,100 ...	— ...	Nov. 27 ...	East African Ports
‡§MIRZAP'RE	6,715 ...	Nov. 22 ...	Dec. 6 ...	Bombay & Karachi
¶†MASHOBRA	8,288 ...	Nov. 22 ...	Dec. 6 ...	Madras & Calcutta
§NARINGA ...	6,607 ...	Dec. 2 ...	Dec 20 ...	Bombay & Karachi
†MANORA	7,888 ...	Dec. 6 ...	Dec. 20 ...	Madras & Calcutta
§†TREGENNA	5,242 ...	Dec. 13 ...	Dec. 24	East African Ports
WANG'RATTA	7,897 ...	— ...	Jan. — ...	Queensland Ports

Ships marked § will not take passengers. ¶ Calls Malta.
‖ From Marseilles Dec. 5. ‡ Calls Port Sudan.
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THE NEAR EAST

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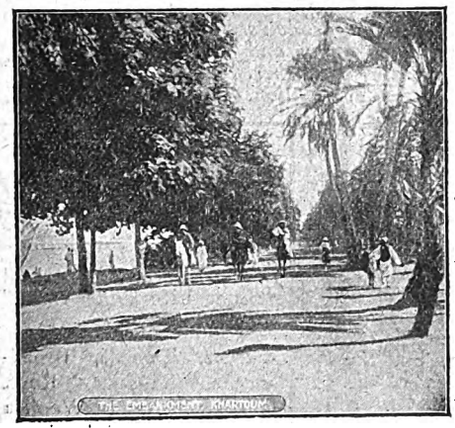

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No. 707—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

The Death of the Sirdar.

If we take a hint from the magnificent character of the late General Sir Lee Stack, who was last week murdered in the most ghastly and foul way in Cairo, we shall not waste time in high and whirling words. Continuity of service might be taken as the key to the Sirdar's career; no panic, no "jumping," but simply the pressure of inexorable and continent justice is what should be applied to the country in which was possible the harbouring of such creatures as assassinated this gallant servant of his country. Great events can only be countered by great measures; and for his own Sudan at least—the Sudan for which he worked so hard and which in turn loved him—it can at once be said that the British Government is doing its best to make good the gap which his loss entails. From what has already been foreshadowed of the Government's intentions, it is possible to say that the Sudan will not grieve for the future. But, in the coming greatness of the Sudan, it is difficult to imagine that the greatness of the Sirdar's rule there will ever be forgotten. The best masons are generally the quietest; and it will surely be found that he built such foundations in the Sudan as will gloriously survive, and, as their superstructure is inevitably added, recall, his untimely death.

British Policy in Egypt.

To the affair which is bringing with it events succeeding each other, in sure, in orderly, and, it may be, in predestined profusion, we devote an examination elsewhere. It may seem therefrom that we are unduly pessimistic, unduly critical of the Government. It is, however, the farthest thing from our thoughts or intentions to make the task of Britain in this grave crisis any more difficult. Yet the conviction obtrudes itself that the Cabinet will have to act with extraordinary *finesse* to regularise the situation; that action has been taken the consequences of which it is impossible to prophesy; that we have, in short, embarked upon a policy which can have no definite end. It may be that no justification of the steps that have been taken in Egypt will be called for at the next meeting of the League of Nations, of which Egypt is not a member, but our relations with the rest of the civilised world will scarcely become easier after so tremendous a grasp of the firm hand has been shown. Certain things, such as an apology, an indemnity (£500,000 was a large sum), a real search for the criminals, were undoubtedly necessary; and, with the exception of the tacking on at this particular moment of the increase of the Gezira irrigation, the alterations in the governing of the Sudan are wholly salutary. But one could wish that the demands had been confined to the Sudan. As things are, a policy is being foreshadowed which is no policy. Darkling, we live in hope that the Government may so act in the immediate future as to ensure both a realisable policy and more Egyptian co-operation than would at the moment appear probable in the administration of a country which was unfortunately given independence before it understood the terms of that grant.

Yugoslavia and Greece.

The superficial depression caused by Yugoslavia's recent denunciation of the Græco-Serbian Treaty of 1913, was quickly dispersed when it became known that the Governments of both countries are eager to negotiate another agreement. Many small events led up to the denunciation, but the chief of them concerned Macedonia. On this point the attitude of Greece has been unexceptional. In protecting Bulgarian minorities in Greece, Greece has merely carried out the obligations of the treaties, and it speaks much, incidentally, for Yugoslav susceptibilities on this matter of Macedonia that the abrogation of the Treaty was due largely to it, and, too, was determined upon, not by the Pashitch Administration, but by the late Davidovitch Cabinet. Another important point concerns the securing by Yugoslavia of exemption from quay dues at Salonika. There is every hope that these matters will be smoothly settled between the two countries; certainly, there is no cause for alarm, for in any case the old Treaty of Alliance

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has still a year to run. For this odd "out-of-doors" job of negotiating a fresh treaty, M. Venizelos has taken advantage of M. Pashitch's return to power to offer his services, but on condition that the new Constitution Bill in Greece is first passed. Since, however, this would take perhaps three months, and since both countries wish a new Treaty to be framed within a month, it may be found either that it is possible to dispense with the assistance of M. Venizelos, or to persuade him to withdraw his conditions.

The New Turkish Cabinet.

Things are certainly going on behind the Turkish scene which are a little baffling to the foreign observer, keen as he may be, in the present circumstance, to welcome the new event. Why General Ismet, who resigned last Friday in favour of Fethi Bey, should have thought his majority in the Assembly insufficient to combat the comparatively small numbers of the so-called Opposition, it is a little hard to understand, and it may be that in this rare case "ill-health," the reason so often given in the East for more or less compulsory transferring of duty, has played some part in the matter. However that may be, Turkey is to be congratulated on having secured in his place so enlightened a politician as Fethi Bey, who is not only a true Turkish patriot, but is well aware of his country's limitations and of the necessity of its living in comparative harmony with Western nations. For example, it may be taken for granted that the Mosul question will be discreetly handled, and that the Commission of the League of Nations (now in London) will be given a free hand. It appears that Mustapha Kemal has a nice judgment in taking time by the forelock.

The Unrest in Persia.

Out of the obscurity that surrounds the attitude and conduct of the Sheikh of Mohammerah to the Teheran Government have come some very wild and shadowy stories, falsehoods that flash a fierce light in the gloom of non-information and then disappear. The picturesque details that were supplied from Teheran of fighting between the Sardar Sipah's troops and those of the Sheikh's have now, it seems, to be put in the same dustbin as that which holds so many of Teheran's hopes and fears. For the latest intelligence to hand implies that a peaceful arrangement between Teheran and Mohammerah is being made, although the conditions of that settlement have not yet been published. Comment is idle until these conditions are known; nor is it profitable now to speculate upon whose advice the Sheikh of Mohammerah has stayed his hand.

Affairs in Arabia.

Matters are a long time in coming to a head between the forces in the Hejaz of King Ali and those of Ibn Saoud, but, from the military point of view, there would appear to be little chance of the preservation of Jeddah should Ibn Saoud choose to advance upon it. The ruler of Nejd has completely encompassed it by occupying Rabeh on the north and Kunfida on the south. In the meantime, King Ali appears to be doing his best to find a basis of negotiation with the Wahhabis, and it is even reported that in this connection he is asking the assistance of his brother Faisal's rival, Saiyid Talib Pasha. In this move it is not difficult to discern the hand of Mr. St. John Philby. On the other hand, Ibn Saoud is proceeding serenely with his plan of assembling Moslem opinion to discuss the future of the Holy Places, and it is gratifying to learn that, on the whole, he is enlisting rather the religious than the political leaders of Islam to this purpose.

INDIA.

What is Truth?

The last mail makes rather depressing reading for those of us who hope to see Indian opinion gradually finding an assured basis in objective fact, for it presents an orgy of misrepresentation of a kind which by this time ought to be entirely obsolete. We read the calm, judicial pronouncement of a Viceroy forced reluctantly to the conclusion that in Bengal "preparations for criminal outrages are now so dangerously developed that it is necessary to provide immediate safeguards"; and we find most of the remaining space filled with denunciation of these safeguards as a deliberate attack on honest liberty of opinion. The outcry is not indeed universal, and we are glad to notice signs of a more reasonable attitude in Madras, which is politically advanced, and in Bombay, which is usually ready to differ from Calcutta; but, speaking generally, what we find is an entire ignorance of facts, combined with a deliberate refusal to weigh probabilities. Lord Reading says he has been convinced by the evidence; his critics reply that he has lost, or deliberately abandoned, his exceptional judicial acumen: the evidence will come before the Courts in due time; and people gifted with any sort of political capacity would wait for it before deciding that Lord Reading has suddenly gone mad, or bad. It is, as we have said, a depressing exhibition, and it makes things very hard for the friends of Indian progress in this country.

Mendacity in the Press.

It is not only in regard to the new Ordinance that this indifference to facts and probabilities prevails. In a recent speech in the Punjab Sir Malcolm Hailey gave concrete instances sufficient to justify his contention that among the journalists of that province there are as hardy liars as any to be read of in history, men who are ready to assert the death from torture of prisoners who, in fact, are in excellent health, and probably putting on weight on the liberal gaol diet, and men who ask people to believe that prison-cells are deliberately filled with snakes. It is curious to find Sir Malcolm's view confirmed, quite independently, by a Bengali journalist, whose avocation has led him to the Punjab, and who declares himself shocked by the crude mendacity of the local Press. It must not, however, be inferred that the cult of truth has made very much progress in Bengal: indeed, it was a popular journal of that province which complained recently of the attitude of the law courts in libel cases which makes it positively dangerous to criticise an official's conduct without having first ascertained the facts on which the criticism is based.

The Courts and the Press.

Judging by experience elsewhere, it is, in fact, largely to the law courts that we must look for the improvement of the Indian Press in this matter. We wish the Indian advocates of liberty would take the trouble to study the legal side of their subject with rather greater care. They would find two parallel lines of development. On the one hand a long series of decisions has gradually established and defined the right of free comment, while on the other the duty of making sure of the facts has been steadily enforced by the award of heavy, and occasionally ferocious, damages against journals which have fallen below the standard of accuracy required by judges and juries. We believe that one reason why the Indian Press has lagged behind is to be found in the elaboration of procedure characteristic of the civil courts. It has been much easier to prosecute for defamation than sue for

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libel, and consequently aggrieved persons have until recently avoided the courts most competent to deal with questions of the kind. Of late there have been signs of a change in this respect, and if the deliberations of the Civil Justice Committee should happily result in the courts being opened to the ordinary man, the Press will come under the sort of discipline which has secured a reasonable standard of accuracy in some other countries.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Sirdar.

London was horrified by the news of the Sirdar's assassination, and there was general approval of the King's indignant telegram and the British Government's stern message to Egypt. The dangers of the situation were fully admitted, and it is recognised that, unless matters are firmly handled, an entirely new position may develop.

Relations with Russia.

The Government's reply to Soviet Russia was in the terms that had been generally expected. The despatch published last week possesses interest as the first substantive act of Mr. Chamberlain, and his quiet dignity and firmness have been much appreciated; but otherwise the action taken had been so thoroughly discounted that it caused not a ripple of excitement. The preposterous Treaty was doomed, of course, even before the election, and nobody expected it to be brought before Parliament. The Zinovieff letter, however, seemed a more awkward affair, thanks to Mr. MacDonald's curious way of handling that affair.

However, the new Cabinet, after examining the whole business, and no doubt also examining the evidence upon which the Foreign Office decided it to be genuine, has been convinced that the Soviet denial was a mere *façon de parler;* and the public, remembering that a Committee of the late Government also could not make up their minds to reject it as a forgery, will rest content that the experts have established their proofs of the document. There was at first, of course, a good deal of scepticism, for the letter ("very secret") contained nothing that everybody did not know, and its political effect was indirect rather than direct—it was not so much the letter itself as the contradictions of the late Government concerning it which influenced the voter at the polls. Once again, however, it seems that truth is stranger than fiction.

It is certain that the matter cannot rest where it is. Even if nothing more is heard of the letter—and a further exchange of notes on that subject would not be profitable to either disputant—the problem of British relations with Russia remains. Recognition of the Soviet, accomplished by the late Government, stands, but there will be no loan and no guarantee on our side—and, on the other side, I suppose, no cessation of propaganda either in this country or on the Asiatic borders of the Empire. We are likely to hear a great deal more of this business before we are through with it, but at least the Baldwin Government knows its own mind, and is not to be influenced by subterranean influences like its predecessor.

Food Adulteration.

The annual report of the Ministry of Health is always an interesting document, and the present volume has been rendered rather gruesomely attractive by a detailed account of various forms of food adulteration which have been discovered by officials of the Ministry. Arsenic in cocoa, sand in tea and sugar, water in milk—sometimes dirty water—margarine and water in butter, and "preservatives" in cream are some of the delights that the retail tradesmen offer us.

It is admitted that the penalties are totally inadequate, and are paid for out of the profits. Some strengthening of the law seems required; if the local grocer (too often a pious humbug) were sent to prison he would hardly be able to trade on the fact that he poisons his customers all the week and officiates as churchwarden, handing them the bag on Sunday.

Food Prices, Strikes, and Wages.

So far as the actual "Week at Home" is concerned, it has been one of the dullest and least eventful times one can remember; indeed, had it not been for an astonishing case in the courts, which involves a bank, an Oriental potentate, a white woman, and an alleged plot in which blackmail has been freely mentioned, there would have been nothing in the papers except food prices.

The cost of living, however, has gone up by seven points this last month, and this means trouble. It is true that the economists, those serene souls who swim in a sea of statistics, are not unduly disturbed by the rise; it means a certain shortage of foodstuffs, but also it means more consumption, which in effect means more employment and better trade. It is one of the elementary axioms of political economy that prices fall in bad and rise in good times.

But when prices rise wages must rise, too, and we are already seeing a number of applications for increased wages, and this, of course, means labour troubles and possibly strikes and stoppages in 1925. Although trade union leaders are increasingly doubtful of the wisdom of strikes, they cannot afford to dispense with this weapon any more than the employer can afford to dispense with the lock-out. And, in any event, the old trade union strategy will again apply—that you sit tight on a falling market and strike on a rising market. There is always the danger, of course, that strikes may kill an improvement of trade, but the Labour leaders are quite as well aware of this as the employers—bar that small section which has lost its temper as the result of defeat at the polls, and which will turn to industrial action as an alternative to the political success which was denied them.

None of the disputes which are threatening are likely to mature before the New Year, and it is the business of the Ministry of Labour to settle them amicably if it can. In the meantime the Government, true to its pledges, has appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into the price of food.

The Royal Commission.

It may be pessimism induced by a dull November day, but personally I am doubtful of any results from this inquiry. The profiteer is a shy bird, and it is difficult to put salt on his tail; while the middleman has been hated and denounced through the ages, but he still survives—indeed, the trouble is that, like Abraham, he increases and multiplies.

There seems very little doubt, however, that we do pay an indirect tax on food that is wholly unjustifiable. The Linlithgow Committee thought there was too great an increase in prices between the producer and consumer; and there are some curious and relevant facts contained in a book called "Food," published by Sir Charles Fielding, the Director-General of Food Production during the War. He remarks that "the unaccounted part of the price paid by the householder (for bread) amounts to the enormous figure of £50

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millions per annum, seemingly in excess of what it actually costs to produce under reasonable conditions."

It is the same with milk—an industry which badly needs investigation—and as regards meat, the same authority declares that "the British farmer is now getting about 56s. per cwt. live weight, or 6d. per lb. for his fat cattle. Allowing for the loss of weight, offals, etc., when the ox is killed, this makes the cost to the butcher about 9d. per lb. of beef. The ordinary retail butcher charges about 1s. 6d. on the average of all joints for the English meat he sells.

"The difference to cover butcher's costs and profits and the meat middleman's profit is, therefore, about 9d. per lb. The actual costs incurred by a well-managed butcher for slaughter-house and shop do not exceed 2d. per lb., including a reasonable profit, leaving 7d. per lb. surplus.

"Taking the United Kingdom's consumption of meat of all kinds at 2,400,000 tons a year, there is at 7d. a pound a total surplus of £156 millions per annum for middlemen's profits, wasteful distribution, bad management, and excess profit."

Even if we cut down these figures considerably, there seems far too great a margin for middlemen's profits, and it will be interesting to see what evidence in rebuttal Smithfield and Mark Lane can bring against this indictment.

There is no disposition among the public to blame the producer—the farmer is notoriously not profiteering—but a very great desire to get at the facts. The ordinary retail tradesman is inclined to throw all the blame on the trusts, and some of the more anti-capitalist papers have rather ridden off on that famous American horse. The food trusts are not precisely angels of innocence, but they certainly cannot bear all the blame. The small shopkeeper, as is shown by the report of the Ministry of Health already referred to, is not above adulterating the food he sells, and a man who can do that will certainly not be averse from illicit profit.

But, on the whole, while I am afraid it may be easy to diagnose the disease, I remain doubtful of the cure. Restrictive laws are easily passed, but less easily enforced; and one of the troubles is that the maxim of "Small profits, quick returns" is no longer fashionable in commercial circles. Indeed, the fault of the Dutch, "in giving too little and asking too much" seems to have become rather characteristic of the British butcher, baker, and candlestick-maker. The great manufacturer keeps his prices down because he has to meet foreign competition, but the food retailer has no such troubles to fear.

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The New Parliament.

The House of Commons assembles early next month, but it will take some time to swear in all the members. Then the Speaker has to be elected —Mr. Whitley, by universal consent—and after that comes the King's Speech, which is expected to be practically a repetition of Mr. Baldwin's outgoing King's Speech in January last. After that the debate on the Address is expected to last about a week, and Parliament will rise in good time for Christmas. It is not expected to meet again till February; by that time the new Ministers will be quite at home in their several departments, and the business of next year will probably be concerned mainly with finance.

Mr. Churchill's first Budget will be eagerly awaited, but it is understood that one of the first things to be done will be to reintroduce the Imperial Conference resolutions, and it is being hopefully whispered that a return of the penny post may be expected. Business men would like to see a reduction of cheque stamps from twopence to a penny as well, but that may be too much to hope for.

Tertium Quid.

OBITUARY.

Sir Maurice Fitzmaurice, C.M.G., F.R.S., whose death, at the age of 63, occurred on November 17 at his residence in Onslow Square, in 1898 was entrusted with one of his greatest tasks, when he was made chief engineer to the Egyptian Government for the building of the Assuan Dam on the Nile, designed by Sir W. Willcocks. This work was completed towards the end of 1901. Later Sir Maurice joined the firm of Coode, Fitzmaurice, Wilson, and Mitchell, consulting engineers for harbours to the Crown Agents for the Colonies and to the Sudan Government for the Blue Nile irrigation works, and chief engineers of the national harbours at Dover and Peterhead. For his services to the Egyptian Government Sir Maurice was given the Order of the Medjidieh of the Second Class in 1901, and he received the C.M.G. in the following year.

The new Grand Vizier of the Spanish zone of Morocco, Bena Zuz, was installed in office on November 17 by the Spanish High Commissioner.

Raiding on the Meshed-Teheran Road has been resumed by the local Turkomans, in spite of the recent "pacification" announced by the Persian Government.

Operations are in progress for the disarming of those villages in the Anti-Lebanon, in Syria, which are known to harbour brigands. Several thousand stand of arms have been seized by the French.

Passports have been issued by the Indian Government for a deputation of the Central Khalifate Committee, consisting of four *maulvis* (Moslem divines) and two lay Moslems, to proceed to the Hejaz and to Nejd.

The *Morning Post* Belgrade correspondent states that Ahmed Zogu, ex-Premier of Albania, left Belgrade on November 18 to spend the winter at Paris. He expressed gratitude for the kindness shown to him in Yugoslavia.

A supplement to the *London Gazette* contains the final dispatch of General Lord Rawlinson on the operations (chiefly consisting of road-making) of the Waziristan Force covering the period April 21, 1923, to March 31, 1924.

The Director of Civil Aviation, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker, left Stag Lane Aerodrome last Thursday for Paris on the first stage of his flight to India, where in January he is to confer with the Indian Government on the situation and construction of an airship base for the use of the new airships of 5,000,000 cubic feet capacity. The machine, a D.H.50, is piloted by Mr. Alan J. Cobham.

In connection with the unveiling of the memorial to the dead of the Salonika Army, negotiations are now in progress whereby, at Easter, a party can be taken to an Italian port by rail and thence by sea to Salonika. The tour will be extended to the Dardanelles, returning to the port of embarkation and home by rail. Major Elliot Bell, 1, Regent Street, London, S.W.1, will supply particulars on request.

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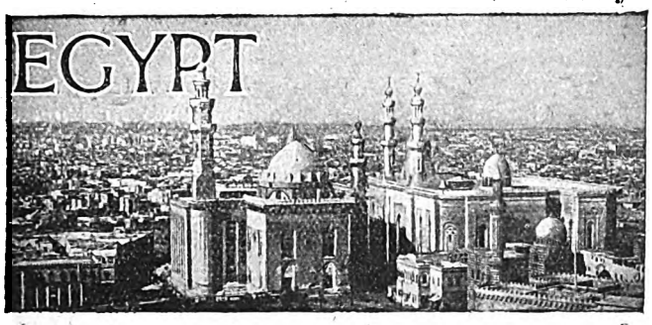
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, November 15.

The Second Parliamentary Session.

The great event of the week has, of course, been the opening of the second session of Parliament, which was performed on Wednesday last by King Fuad. The text of the Speech from the Throne was colourless, but, after all, anything else would have been out of place in the present difficult circumstances, and would, indeed, have tended to aggravate matters.

There had, of course, to be a reference to the London conversations and to the events in the Sudan, but they were skilfully handled, and were, so to speak, overshadowed by the internal reforms recommended to the consideration of Parliament, to which the bulk of the speech was devoted. The tenour confirmed the impression one had already obtained that Zaghloul Pasha intends during the coming season to discourage discussion of the bigger political issues and to concentrate attention as much as possible on a consideration of what by contrast are questions of purely internal interest. Whether he will be able to carry out this exceedingly wise intention will largely depend on the attitude he adopts towards the various matters affecting the *status quo* that will have to be dealt with in the near future and the extent to which he can restrain the more extremist of his immediate *entourage*, who repeatedly, by their speeches and their actions, show signs of restlessness and even of opposition.

As at the inauguration of the first session, the representatives of the various newspapers were excluded from Wednesday's ceremony. The ban was inspired as before because of the dissatisfaction felt by the Wafd at the bitter criticism which had been directed towards its activities and the policy of the Government. On this occasion, however, it was not extended to members of the foreign Press, but was restricted to the Constitutional Liberal and Hisb El Watani organs, who represent the main opposition. This action has been very adversely commented upon. Even the Government organs criticise it as an undignified proceeding and as a tactical blunder, and it is all the more inexcusable in view of the recent decision in the libel action brought by the Government against one of those organs, in which the Native Cassation Court quashed the sentence passed on the Editor in first instance.

Armistice Day.

Armistice Day was celebrated in Cairo and Alexandria in traditional style. In the capital a memorial service took place in the morning at All Saints' Church, followed in the afternoon by an impressive ceremony at the British cemetery. Detachments were sent by all the regiments stationed in Cairo, and there was a very big attendance of the British and foreign communities, those present including the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby; M. Gaillard, the French Minister; Air Vice-Marshal Sir Oliver Swann and Lady Swann. After the Last Post wreaths were laid on the Cross of Sacrifice by Viscount Allenby on behalf of the British troops in Egypt, by M. Gaillard on behalf of the *Société Mutuelle des Poilus du Caire*, and by Sir Oliver Swann on behalf of the men of the Royal Air Force in Egypt.

In Alexandria there was a memorial service at Hadra cemetery, which was conducted by the R.R. Bishop Gwynne. A large number of British residents were present, and a guard of honour was formed by detachments from each of the battalions forming the Alexandria garrison. At Aboukir a separate service was held by the Air Force in front of the Cenotaph, and at Minia a similar service was held at the military cemetery.

An account of the ceremonies by which Armistice Day was celebrated would be incomplete without a reference to the cemeteries in which some of the services were held. They presented a most pleasing and peaceful picture, and everyone who attended remarked on their excellent condition and the successful manner in which their horticultural embellishment has been carried out. Indeed, the local committee of the Imperial War Graves Commission deserve well of their fellow-countrymen, and the various cemeteries, for which they are responsible all over Egypt, stand as an eloquent tribute to the devotion and thoroughness with which they have carried out their task.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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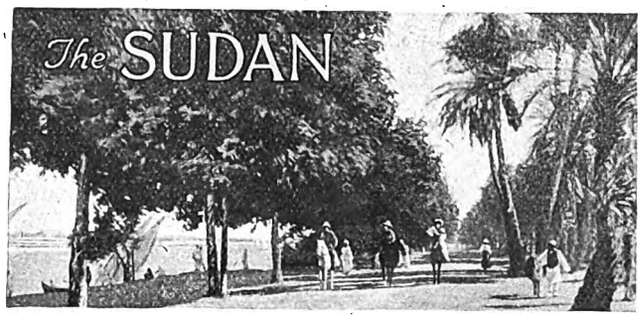

Khartoum, November 7.

The Political Situation.

The distribution of one or two circulars, written by members of the Society of Sudan Union, Branch of Vengeance, apart, nothing has happened during the fortnight under review regarding the activities of the anti-Government or pro-Egyptian elements in the Sudan.

The Magisterial Inquiry into the case of forty-one Egyptian and Sudanese previously referred to in these columns has been concluded, though the result has not been, up to the moment, made public. A second Inquiry is now being conducted into the case of the Civilian Cadets of the Military School who took part in the demonstration of August 9. In connection with the former Inquiry, the sudden departure of Mohammed Amin Bey Shadid, advocate of Khartoum, has created considerable surprise. He, together with Mr. Fry, had watched the proceedings of the Inquiry on behalf of the prisoners. The Inquiry had been concluded, but, instead of waiting for the actual trial to take place, he suddenly left for Cairo with his family. A rumour gained certain credence that Mohammed Amin had been ordered to leave the country by the Sudan Government, but this is incorrect. What actually happened was that for some purely personal reasons he decided to leave for Cairo, and to that end interviewed Mr. W. Sterry, Legal Secretary and Acting Governor-General, to whom he submitted his apologies on departure, which were accepted. Mohammed Amin accordingly left Khartoum by the next day's mail train.

Since his return to Cairo he has been extremely busy in condemning the Inquiry. He has repeatedly stated that the whole of the proceedings were farcical from beginning to end, and that witnesses were paid and evidence manufactured.

The Egyptian Arabic Press were not slow in giving publicity to such views, and, with the addition of the usual Egyptian journalistic rhetoric, the statements were received with acclamation by the Extremist Party.

The popular belief in Khartoum is that Mohammed Amin Bey Shadid was but a paid employee of Zaghloul Pasha, and that he was purposely recalled to Egypt for particular reasons. One's own contention is that he had already discovered that an advocate's profession in the Sudan, at least for one of his nationality, was not at all lucrative, and subsequent to the outbreak of political disorders he had been kept busy defending prisoners to the detriment of his normal Court business. This had to be done without the least hope of future payment. His pecuniary condition at last forced him to throw up his practice in the Sudan and turn to Egypt, where he at once gathered both notoriety and affluence through his anti-British activities.

Authority over Children.

At the instigation of the Legal Secretary, a circular (quoted below) has been prepared in English and Arabic and distributed to parents and guardians and to all those others who are in authority over children. The humane policy of the Sudan Government has apparently led the native population to believe that it disliked to witness the chastisement of erring children; in fact, that the administration of corporal punishment was strictly against the law. This erroneous belief obviously permitted a laxity of control over children, particularly male children, and it is to this that the recent disturbances, at least in part, may be attributed. It is understood that certain of the more youthful of the Gordon College *Intelligentsia* who had committed offences punishable by the Government were handed over to their parents for chastisement, an action which will be decidedly more fruitful, or rather corrective, than a period of imprisonment. Undoubtedly this timely warning and these words of wisdom, couched in terms which can be appreciated to the full by all those of Moslem tenets, will have the desired effect.

"Spare the rod and spoil the child" is a very old English adage, the fundamental principle of which is understood and applied throughout the whole world.

The Circular.

As there appears to be a widespread idea in this country that the laws now in force forbid parents to give corporal punishment to their children, the Legal Secretary desires to make it known that this idea is quite erroneous.

A parent is not forbidden to beat his child, provided that it is done for a good cause and in a reasonable—that is, not excessive—manner. He must, of course, not do so in such a way as to cause serious or permanent injury nor in a cruel manner.

Said the prophet Solomon, son of David:

"The rod and reproof give wisdom. Chasten the son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."

"He that spareth his rod hateth his son, but he that loveth him chastises him betimes."

Parents may rest assured that not only will they not be interfered with for giving reasonable chastisement to their children, but that the Government, considering that respect to parents is one of the strongest foundations of States, will firmly uphold the authority of parents. No amount of discipline in schools can take the place of wise discipline in the father's house. And parents should not consider if they sent a child to the school that they have handed over all their duties to the master. On the contrary, each state of life has its own temptations to wrong and the discipline of the parents is still needed to supply the deficiencies and meet the temptations of school life.

Boys are apt to get conceited from new knowledge acquired at school. Now knowledge is very good, but it does not supply the place of the much more important principles of virtue and morality, of good manners and respect to parents. These are things which do not grow old, nor are replaced by things new, and it is to parents and guardians that the Government must look to inculcate them.

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BULGARIA.

Sofia, November 18.

Bulgaria and Greece.

The Protocol concerning Bulgarian minorities in Greece and Greek minorities in Bulgaria, which was drawn up at Geneva last September, was one of the most important events which have occurred in inter-Balkan relations. This Protocol gave extended powers to two delegates of the League of Nations—namely, Colonel Corfe and Commandant De Roover. The duty of these two men will be to act as watch-dogs in all questions that pertain to the minorities in question. They will spend their time between Sofia and Athens, and as they already enjoy the confidence of both Governments, it is to be hoped that their presence and advice may serve gradually to ameliorate the situation of the unhappy minorities.

The position of the minorities is, indeed, lamentable, as Bulgarians continue to be forced out of Greece into Bulgaria, while Greeks are leaving Bulgaria for their own country. The reasons which cause this wholesale emigration are hard to ascertain, but there seems little doubt that in Greece the huge influx of Anatolian refugees is largely responsible for the attitude which the local Greek authorities are taking up towards Bulgarians. Space to install these refugees is lacking, and the Bulgarians have thus been politely, and in some cases impolitely, asked to quit. Very naturally this has caused great discontentment in Bulgaria, and Greeks in Bulgaria who, especially along the sea coast, have been peaceably pursuing their normal occupations have in some cases become the target for persecution. Only last week four Greeks were killed at the village of Stanimaka in circumstances which have not yet become clear. The Greek Government is reported to have made a vigorous protest regarding this matter, and the Bulgarian Government, who have ordered an inquiry, are somewhat anxious as to possibilities of further anti-Greek outbreaks. The two League Delegates and the Mixed Commission for Voluntary Emigration have, therefore, a most important and delicate rôle to play. Winter has now set in, and it is essential that everything possible is done in order to prevent continued emigration unless it is absolutely voluntary. Otherwise, relations between Bulgaria and Greece will grow steadily worse, and fresh incidents similar to that at Tarlis last July, when 17 Bulgarians were killed, and that at Stanimaka last week are bound to occur.

The Sobranye.

The Sobranye continues to discuss the reply to the King's address. The leaders of all the political parties have made speeches, and there has, indeed, been a wealth of oratory over a subject which would seem to offer little occasion for discussion. But what is really happening is that a great deal of political manœuvring is carried out by Government supporters amongst certain Opposition groups.

The most salient fact which stands out to the present is the tendency, so far only slightly expressed, of M. Malinoff and some of his dissident Democrat Party to come into line with the ruling party, namely, the Democratic Entente. Hitherto a strong critic of the Government's policy, both at home and abroad, M. Malinoff, in a recent speech, showed himself remarkably well disposed to M. Tsankoff. His action has given rise to much speculation as to the future of the dissident Democrats. Some people believe M. Malinoff is aiming at a full *rapprochement* with M. Tsankoff owing to the fact that the loyal Democrats, led by M. Liaptcheff, are getting too much control in the Government. Another view is that M. Malinoff and his followers still cling to the hope that they may succeed in forming a united Opposition, consisting of themselves, the Socialists, a wing of the Radical Party, and the moderate Agrarians. As yet it is too early to say which, if either, of these two views is correct, but popular opinion seems to incline to the former.

The Agrarians.

There are still no indications that the Agrarian Party, which was thrown into confusion in June, 1923, when Stambolisky was killed, is reorganising itself. The party still consists of three distinct groups—the idealistic followers of M. Draguieff, the hermit of Stara Zagora; the "Moderates," who follow MM. Thomoff and Tourlakoff; and the "Extremists," who are practically allied to the Communists. There is even a fourth group, namely, that which is commanded—the word is used intentionally—by MM. Kosto Thodoroff, Oboff, and Athanassoff. This group does not, however, have its headquarters in Bulgaria. It lives at Belgrade, and consists of Agrarians and in some cases Communist political refugees, who hope to overthrow the Tsankoff Administration by violent means. In this connection, it is interesting to note that the Agrarian Party in Bulgaria has formally disavowed its brethren in Yugoslavia. The only thing that thus seems to be clear about the Agrarian Party is that until a new and totally uncompromised leader springs up they are not likely to play an important part in Bulgarian politics.

General News.

It is announced that M. Grégoire Bilciurescu has been appointed Roumanian Minister in Sofia.

The Honourable W. A. F. Erskine, British Minister, and Mrs. Erskine have left Sofia on two months' leave. Mr. Barber will act as Chargé d'Affaires during the Minister's absence.

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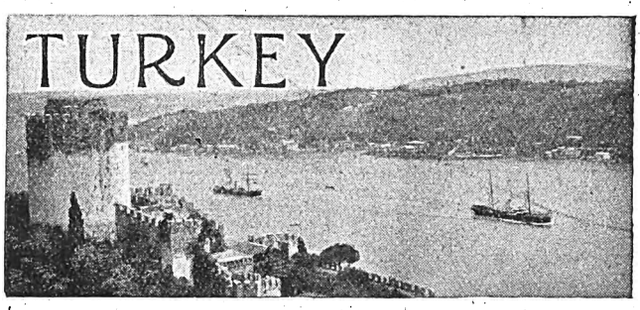

Constantinople, November 18.

The New Party.

The outstanding event of the past week has been the outbreak of revolt against the all-embracing People's Party, as expressed by the constitution of the Progressive Republican Party. The recent resignations of Reouf, Adnan, Ismail Jamboulat, and a number of other beys of the Eastern vilayets provided the kernel of the new party, which numbers only about eighteen members at present, but expects to gain new adherents daily. Good judges estimate that within a very short time a coherent Opposition party sixty strong will be seen, and inspired hints about the possible formation of other Opposition groups, such as the Conservatives and Clericals, are beginning to be bandied about. This is all to the good, although the narrow-minded autocrats of the People's Party cannot see it. The unopposed People's Party has been an incubus, for it has stifled all intelligent inquiry into the affairs of the nation owing to its system of deciding everything *in camera* before it appeared in the Assembly, and the disorganisation of the few declared Opposition has until now stultified all its efforts to bring the Government effectively to task.

Reouf Bey.

The arrival of Reouf Bey in Constantinople, suffering from the prevailing malady in Angora, malignant malaria, has been an event of the first magnitude. He was accompanied by Adnan Bey, and on arrival was given a sincere personal welcome by a large crowd of friends and sympathisers. It would be idle to pretend that his transference here is merely a question of health. As the biggest and most admirable personage in the new party, he will find in the broader outlook and the freer atmosphere of Constantinople the inspiration necessary for the elaboration of a statesmanlike programme for the new party. The question of immediate importance for them is whether the three Army Commanders who have just resigned, Kiazim Karabakir, Ali Fuad, and Jevad Pasha will all throw in their lot with the Opposition. If this happens, the fortunes of the Progressive Republicans is assured, for, as has been frequently pointed out in these letters, the men who gain the support of the Army in Turkey are the men who have gained the country.

Now that the flag of revolt against that anomalous institution the People's Party has been raised, one must expect to see fairly rapid developments. The position of Mustapha Kemal Pasha is not uninteresting, for he has rather too obviously allied himself to the one all-powerful party. It will not surprise us to see his attitude become gradually more "Presidential" in proportion as the strength and influence of the Opposition increase.

Inertia of Administration.

Your Correspondent has not failed to inveigh against the appalling confusion of the Administration and the inertia of the Executive whenever an occasion has presented itself. Another case of lamentable weakness has occurred in the past week. There has been a long-standing quarrel between the Constantinople Tramway Co. and the students of the University, who claim the right to travel at half-fare. There is nothing very revolutionary in the claim itself, and it appears that if the all-powerful authorities had taken it up with the company and exerted a little pressure, the trivial concession might have been granted weeks ago. Nevertheless, nothing has been done, and the result was a regrettable outbreak of violence a few days ago, when the students took matters into their own hands and held up the only means of transport in the city by organising storming attacks upon all the lines and refusing to pay any fares, and also by raising a riot in the tramway company's offices. The obvious retort on the part of the director of the police would have been to disperse the manifestants by means of the hundreds of uniformed police which he has at his disposal. Instead of so doing, he took no effective measures for hours, while he telephoned sweet words to the self-appointed representatives of these undisciplined young men. The only repressive measures that were taken were revolver shots from a panic-stricken police agent in mufti, which wounded four persons and nearly precipitated a serious catastrophe. The conflict has been smoothed over for the next ten days by the temporary concession by the tramway company of the point at issue pending a definite decision by the Ministry of Public Works, but it would surprise no one to find that at the expiry of the agreed period the Ministry had taken no decision, and that the disorders had begun all over again.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, November 12.

The Organic Law.

Affairs in Iraq have been remarkably quiet during the last fortnight. Nothing has disturbed the political calm, except a series of strong articles in the local Press demanding the immediate ratification of the Organic Law, by which Iraq is to obtain a proper Constitution. The Prime Minister issued a somewhat unconvincing manifesto explaining the reasons for delay, the chief being the necessity of passing certain necessary and urgent legislation, in particular the Budget, before Parliament meets. He promised, however, that as soon as the secondary electors had been elected, the King would ratify the Organic Law. As the Electoral Law has not yet been ratified, it would seem that Iraq has still some little time to wait for her Constitution.

Mosul.

Ever ready, like all their countrymen, to seize an opportunity for a bargain, the Arabs of Mosul

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have let it be known that they will be pro-Turk during the forthcoming visit of the Commission of the League of Nations—until such time as they are granted certain remissions of revenue!

No fresh news has been received from the Northern frontier, the violation of which seems to have caused very much more comment in London than in Baghdad.

Kirkuk Disturbances.

The trial of three officers and nine men—the only ones who could be identified from the battalion of Assyrian Levies which ran amok in Kirkuk on May 4 last—has recently been completed. The Special Court was composed of one Assyrian and two Iraqi judges, under the presidency of a British judge. Eight men were found guilty of wilful murder in that they fired Lewis guns on the town, but as it could not be conclusively proved that the shots fired by them had actually killed any of the Kirkuklis who lost their lives on that day, a sentence of penal servitude for life was imposed instead of a death sentence. The ninth accused was sentenced to five years' penal servitude for attempting to take part in the Lewis gun firing, while the three officers were released, their defence being that their presence with the men was due entirely to their desire to get them under control and lead them back to their quarters.

The result of the trial provoked great resentment among the people of Kirkuk, who were expecting much severer sentences in view of the number of inhabitants killed by the Assyrians—some fifty in all, including women. The Mutasarrif resigned his post, but was eventually persuaded by the Ministry of Interior to withdraw his resignation.

Armistice Day.

Armistice Day was celebrated at Baghdad by a combined parade service for all British troops, held at the Iraq aircraft depot at Hinaidi. The large numbers present—Royal Air Force, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and Iraq Signal Section, beside a large number of civilians—made an impressive gathering. The band of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers accompanied the hymns, and rendered "O Rest in the Lord" before the two minutes' silence, which was notified by the firing of a gun. The Last Post was sounded at the expiration of the two minutes. A verse of Kipling's "Recessional" and the National Anthem ended the service.

Active Service.

The High Commissioner has caused the following notification to appear in the Iraq Government *Gazette*:—

"Whereas the Forces maintained by his Britannic Majesty in Iraq have been recently on active service, it is hereby declared, in accordance with Section 189, Sub-Section 2, of the Army and Air Force Acts, that it is necessary for the public service that such Forces should continue to be temporarily subject to the said Acts as if they were on active service for a further period of three months commencing on the sixth day of November, 1924."

General.

Kurdish notabilities in Baghdad, it is reported in a local paper, intend to form a committee to approach the League of Nations and state in definite terms the wish of the Kurdish people to be separated from Turkey.

The same paper (*Al Mufid*) comments unfavourably on the appearance of girl guides in the streets of Baghdad. It contends, possibly not without justification, that this type of education for girls, in a country as backward as Iraq, is premature and highly undesirable. The Boy Scout movement, it may be remarked, though unpopular at first, is now making great strides in this country, and, judging by the vast number of small boys who are able to provide themselves with uniform and in many cases with bicycles, must be looked upon with favour by Baghdadi parents.

Much interest has been created by the arrival in Baghdad of two Danish travellers who—a novelty in globe-trotters—are touring the world on a motor-cycle. The object of their travels is the study of forestry in various countries. Their adventurous journey, involving an attack by brigands, a meeting with Mustapha Kamal, and a breakdown of the side car, which meant that one of the travellers had to ride pillion fashion from Constantinople to Baghdad, has taken two months, by way of Hamburg, Prague, Vienna, Budapesth, Constantinople, and Anatolia.

Two Dutch airmen have passed through Baghdad in a Fokker aeroplane with British Rolls-Royce engine, on their way from Amsterdam to Java. They have since been reported to have reached Bushire without mishap.

Her Majesty the Queen of Iraq is expected to arrive in Iraq shortly.

Lady Dobbs returned to Baghdad by the Nairn Transport Company's convoy on November 1.

Mrs. Rosita Forbes (Mrs. McGrath) passed through this week on her way to Persia, where she has been commissioned by an American company to assist in the preparation of a film depicting Persian life and customs.

THE PERSIA SOCIETY.

The Persia Society, of which the Rt. Hon. Lord Lamington, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., is president, will hold an afternoon reception at the House of Lords to-morrow, November 28, to meet His Excellency the Persian Minister. This society, whose membership comprises both British and Persian subjects, has for its object the mutual dissemination of greater knowledge regarding the respective countries and the promotion of good relations between them.

EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

The Near and Middle East Association's meeting for next Monday, December 1, when "Anglo-Egyptian Relations and the Sudan Question" were to have been discussed by Senator Fanous and Miss M. M. Farquharson, has been postponed.

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SIR LEE STACK.

As all the world now knows, Major-General Sir Lee Stack, Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and Governor-General of the Sudan, died in Cairo on November 20 as the result of wounds. And for him all the world which knows is grieving. There never was a finer servant of his country in Egypt and the Sudan, and there is no higher record of service than that which British officials in the Sudan may boast. A lonely, silent, splendid service, British administration in the Sudan was perfectly mirrored in the late General, and his life was literally given in its interests.

Born in 1868, Lee Oliver Fitzmaurice Stack was educated at Clifton, where he was a curious failure. He entered the Army through the Militia, not through Sandhurst, as has been widely stated. His relationship with Egypt began in 1899, the same year as that in which he was Staff Officer to the G.O.C. in Crete. In 1902 he commanded the Shambe Field Force. In 1908 he became Sudan Agent and Director of Military Intelligence; and in 1913 Civil Secretary to the Sudan Government. On the transference of Sir Reginald Wingate from Khartoum to Cairo he was chosen as Acting Governor-General and also was appointed Sirdar.

His services during the War were unostentatious but extremely valuable, and it was in recognition of them that in 1919 he was confirmed in the two high positions which he held until his death. What he did for the Sudan during the last five years is, perhaps, better known by the humblest Sudanese than by anyone else, for he was the ideal "father of his people."

AN ARAB REPORT ON PALESTINE.

We have received from Palestine a "Report on the State of Palestine during four years of Civil Administration, submitted to the Mandate Commission of the League of Nations through H.E. the High Commissioner for Palestine by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Arab Congress." The report begins by summing up what it calls "the Palestine Arab Case against Zionist Agression" thus:—

> The injustice of creating a National Home for the Jews in Palestine, which is the well-established home of the Palestinian Arabs (Moslems and Christians), and the impracticability of training its inhabitants in self-government and preparing them for independence, which is the principal aim of the mandatory system, as long as the Jewish National Home policy is in progress.

It proceeds to review the last four years of the Civil Administration. A great mistake, it states, was to put political changes before economic improvements, but "unfortunately political changes came in with the speed of lightning, and most of the elements that usually go to relieve and revive a distressed population were all replaced by those that are instituted to enhance trouble."

Constitutionally, the position is equally unsatisfactory, for "the Government now carries on its administration with an advisory council, all the members of which are nominated official foreigners." The reasons, moreover, that are given by the Mandatory for depriving Palestine of a real Constitution rankle with the Arabs who have drawn up this report, and who look to their brethren in Iraq and Transjordan, where (they say) there are such Constitutions. That Palestinian Arabs are capable of self-government is sufficiently proved by the fact that to them the Government of Palestine handed over the administration of Moslem Religious Courts and Wakfs.

On the subject of Jewish immigration the report speaks in unmeasured terms, and it is a pity that the Arab case should be spoiled by extravagance of language. Its conclusion under this heading is: "Cost of living is higher in Palestine than in any country of Europe, and commerce and industry are at a standstill. Not so conditions in the sister neighbouring States of Syria and Egypt, where there is no such mad immigration policy."

Turning to Public Security, the report begins by asserting that "public security is being more endangered year by year. The Government's efforts to hide this fact are shattered by their own statistics."

No criticism is spared in regard to Finance, for in dealing with this the report accuses the Government of having an unnecessarily large staff, of encumbering the Budget with a huge amount that has to be expended on interpreters of Hebrew ("a dead language"), and of deliberately favouring the Jews in connection with custom duties. Further, "the highest financial officers of the Government, for the last four years, have never denied the fact that the country is overtaxed." And on Economic Policy, the Administration, according to this report, "pursues two lines of action, the one pertaining to Arabs and the other to Jews. The latter is progressive, but the former is retrogressive." Economic favouritism was shown in the 1921 concessions known as the Rutenberg and Kabbara.

Here the list of Arab grievances against the Palestine Administration ends. The nature and worth of the whole report can be seen in its conclusion and demand, which we quote:—

> The Palestine Arabs met this oppressive policy with patience. Their opposition has been conducted on constitutional methods. But this attitude of theirs has been both misrepresented by the Government and misunderstood by the Mandatory. The daily slight frictions between Arab and Jew, whose ideas, principles, customs, and modes of life take diametrically divergent lines, cultivate and solidify hatred between communities, and there must be a time when it accumulates to such a degree as to defy all moral and political restraints. It is a gross error to believe that Arab and Jew may come to an understanding if only each of them exchanges his coat of extremism for another of moderation. When the principles underlying two movements do clash, it is futile to expect their meeting halfway. The Zionist policy is best described by Dr. Eder, ex-chairman of the Zionist Executive in Palestine, when he was asked to do so by the Court of Inquiry for the Jaffa disturbances of May, 1921: "There can only be one National Home in Palestine, and that a Jewish one, and no equality in the partnership between Jews and Arabs, but a Jewish predominance as soon as the number of that race are sufficiently increased."
>
> The Arab demand may be summed up in the following words: The establishment in Palestine of a National Constitutional Government in which the two communities, Arab and Jewish, will be represented in proportion to their numbers as they existed before the application of the Zionist policy.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

November 27, 1924 (New Style).
November 14, 1924 (Old Style).
Rabia' II, 29, 1343, A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Marheshvan 30, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

The Aga Khan left London on November 19 for Paris.

The Right Hon. H. H. Asquith had an audience of King Fuad in Cairo on November 19.

Mr. G. L. Craik, Chairman of the Commonwealth Trust, left London last Thursday for India.

Sir Archibald and Lady Weigall returned last week to their London residence in Park Lane from Petwood, Woodhall Spa.

Shevky Pasha, Secretary at the Turkish Legation, who has been confined to his room for several weeks, has now recovered.

Princess Marie, of Greece, and Admiral Ioannides left London on November 19 for Sandringham on a visit to Queen Alexandra.

Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Henry Bridgeman, D.S.O., left Castle Bromwich last week for India in the P. and O. ss. China.

Mrs. Mahaffy, wife of Mr. R. P. Mahaffy, Legal Adviser to the Governor and Forces of the Malta, gave birth to a son last Thursday at Malta.

Princess Andrew, of Greece, who visited the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on November 19, left London for Paris on November 22.

The Earl and Countess of Dalkeith will visit India during the winter, and will probably sail shortly after the Buccleuch Hunt Ball, which will be held at Kelso on December 17.

General Lord Rawlinson, Commander-in-Chief of the Army in India, arrived at Bombay last Friday from England, where he has been on leave.

General Sir W. R. Birdwood and Miss Megan Lloyd George were among the passengers returning home on board the Naldera, which sailed from Bombay last Saturday.

M. Gregoire Michaesco, Commercial Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, who underwent a serious operation recently at Geneva, is now making satisfactory progress. He will not return to London for some time.

Dr. George Jouritch, Serbian representative on the Reparations Commission, arrived in London last Saturday from the Continent, on a special mission.

Captain M. Costiesco Ghyka, a former Secretary at the Roumanian Legation, left London on November 18 for Paris. Mme. Ghyka is still in London, and is staying with her mother, Lady (Roderick) O'Conor.

The British Empire Producers' Association gave a luncheon in honour of the Right Hon. L. S. Amery, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, at the Hotel Victoria last Monday. Mr. Ben H. Morgan presided.

Sir Robert Horne is leaving for Burma on a short business visit in connection with the affairs of the Burma Corporation. He expects to return to London before the meeting of Parliament in February.

M. Romanos, formerly Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, and at one time Minister in London and Paris, arrived in London last Friday from the Continent, and is staying at 14a, Berkeley Street.

Mr. D. G. Hogarth has been appointed to deliver the Schweich Lectures on Biblical Archæology, and will give three lectures on "The Kings of the Hittites," on December 3, 8, and 15, at 5.15 p.m., at the Rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, W. These lectures are free, by invitation, for which application should be made in writing to "The Secretary, the British Academy, Burlington House, W.1."

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Mr. L. G. Roussin, C.M.G., formerly Financial Secretary to the Egyptian Government, has been appointed British member of the International Financial Commission at Athens.

Major-General Arthur Le Grand Jacob, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., has succeeded Major-General Sir T. G. Matheson, in command of the Waziristan District. The new commander served with Force "D" in Mesopotamia, and had the 74th Infantry Brigade.

The King has approved the following appointments in the Diplomatic Service:—Sir Thomas Beaumont Hohler, K.C.M.G., C.B., to be his Majesty's Minister at Santiago, Chile; the Hon. Ernest Stowell Scott, C.M.G., M.V.O., to be his Majesty's Minister at Montevideo, Uruguay.—Sir Thomas Hohler, who had been British High Commissioner in Budapest from January, 1920, to August, 1921, and British Minister from August, 1921, until April, 1924, has held Diplomatic appointments at, among other places, Cairo, Addis Ababa, and Constantinople; Mr. E. S. Scott, the second son of Lord Eldon, has been in the Diplomatic Service since 1895. From March, 1920, until November, 1923, he has been attached to the British High Commissioner in Egypt, with the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1924.

EGYPTIAN INDEPENDENCE: THE FIRST FRUITS.

Horror and indignation at the abominable murder of the Sirdar in Cairo have been swiftly succeeded, as might have been expected from the new Conservative Administration, by the publication of a very firm protest to the Egyptian Government. That resolution for which the situation unquestionably called has been shown in abundance, and no one can reasonably deny that in the main Mr. Baldwin's Government has acted correctly. Moreover, what is really implied by the two Notes which Lord Allenby presented to the Egyptian Government is that this terribly sad and monstrous murder has, in the chief aspect, hastened on a policy which many competent observers had already thought to be inevitable. Upon the tone and form of the British protest, however, we will postpone comment. In support of our Government's action much can be said. It is, we should imagine, plain for all the world to see that the Egyptians cannot decently govern themselves. But in so far as their malgovernance does not vitally affect British or foreign interests it is not for this country to do anything. In considering the moral responsibility of Zaghloul Pasha's Administration in this affair, this at least can be said. It is bitterly obvious now how profound a mistake it was to grant to the Egyptians independence while leaving the "four reserved points" in the void. Had those four points been discussed *before* instead of *after* the granting of independence, other lives might perhaps have been lost, but a more constant and far-seeing policy could have been pursued. As it is, the Egyptians have been crying for the moon, a moon that reflects the sun of Britain's strength, not of their own. Yet, quite indisputably, it is impossible, seeing how often assassins of British men have escaped, not to convict the Egyptian nation of lack of elementary courage, of elementary decency, of elementary good-sense. Certainly there are both wise and good Egyptians in Cairo and elsewhere, but how much more they would be respected if they raised protesting voices before instead of after a crime! That matters should have come to this pass, however, is partly owing to British mistakes. The only possible chance now that we can see which Egypt has of securing, we will not say of regaining, the respect of the world is for such men to come out into the open and to denounce assassination. As things have been, what Zaghloul Pasha has said, or has been forced to say, about Britain and the Sudan has been echoed in thousands of Egyptian bazaars and by-ways, until the eviction of the British by whatsoever means has become to the extreme Egyptians almost a formula. The murder of the Sirdar was an attempt to apply this formula. And on its failure its humaner converse is to be applied to the Egyptians.

The first fruits of Egyptian independence are bitter indeed. For some time Egypt will be obliged sorrowfully and, we hope, ponderingly to eat husks. It is true that the liberties of the Egyptian people, as guaranteed in the Declaration of 1922, will be in no wise interfered with—from this granting there can be no retrogression. There is, and can be, no question of a reoccupation of Egypt; nor will there be any inhibition of the free functioning of Egypt's Constitution. As much opportunity as has been provided in the past two years will be given to a sovereign nation to prove that it knows what sovereignty means and entails. But, without seriously impinging upon any of these things, the British Government has resoundingly communicated its mind to Cairo. The first of the two Notes delivered by Lord Allenby to the Egyptian Government, not disguising the belief that the murder of Sir Lee Stack was the natural outcome of a campaign of hostility fomented by organisations in close contact with the Egyptian Government, demands:—(1) An ample apology; (2) a search, regardless of persons, for the criminals, and their condign punishment; (3) the suppression of all popular political demonstrations; (4) an indemnity of £500,000; (5) the withdrawal from the Sudan within twenty-four hours of all Egyptian officers and the purely Egyptian units of the Egyptian Army; (6) the irrigation area at Gezira to be increased to an unlimited extent; and (7) the withdrawal of all opposition to British official wishes concerning the protection of foreign interests in Egypt. It is an extremely stern document, calling up irresistibly and ominously at least two other Notes which during the last ten and a-half years have threatened the peace of Europe. At present it is a little difficult to perceive what justification there was for connecting with the murder the immediate increase of the irrigation area at Gezira, although there is obvious and complete justification of the other demands relating to the Sudan. The second Note specifies British requirements concerning the Army in the Sudan and the protection of foreign interests in Egypt. It lays down that henceforth the Sudan defence force shall owe allegiance to the Sudan Government alone (the posts of Sirdar and of Governor-General of the Sudan had been already separated), and that, pending agreement between the Governments of Britain and Egypt, the posts of financial and judicial advisers shall be maintained.

Not unexpectedly, and no doubt as was foreseen, the Egyptian Cabinet rejected, with the partial exception of the indemnity clause and that relating to the search for the criminals, the demands of the British Government *in toto*. It is fortunate that such rejection is not perhaps of vital consequence to the fulfilling of the demands. From the point of view of the Sudan, at any rate, the publication of these demands will be received with a sigh of relief, for some such policy as that, of which they are the heads, had for at least a year been seen to be absolutely necessary. The time has come—it is affecting to think that so tragic an event as the murder of the Sirdar should be the occasion of bringing the policy forward but by a few months—for the Sudan to go towards its own independent future unhampered by Egyptian intrigues. For the rest, it is difficult to discover what British policy is to be. Upon the handling of affairs in the next few days the whole question turns; with inspiration and good fortune, for what might have been an extremely dangerous *impasse* there may be provided some clear path. Zaghloul Pasha has resigned, as could be foreseen; and at the time of writing Ziwar Pasha has just succeeded in forming a Ministry. Some Egyptian co-operation is essential to the governing of Egypt. Should it not

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be procurable, we trust that the Government has further plans that it has not yet disclosed to meet the situation. In the meantime, it is possible to hope that in the dark days of chastening which are to befal Egypt some better sense of British needs and of British character may slowly dawn on the people in whose name Zaghloul Pasha rejected the demands. This country has no intention either of governing or of getting out of Egypt; the future lies open, if not clear, in front of the Egyptians, to make of it what they will; but if they persist in imagining that Britain is not inflexibly resolved to pursue to the end her pledges and promises alike to the Sudanese, to the foreigners in Egypt, and to the Egyptians themselves, not roses but thorns will bestrew their path. More, much more, than mere words are necessary to erase the blot which the murder of the Sirdar has caused. There are, we know, Egyptians who realise this: it is to them that we look for a re-vindication of Egyptian Nationalism and a diverting of its activities from criminal to constructive channels.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ITALIAN SOMALILAND.

The Duke of the Abruzzi's Enterprise.

In November, 1920, the Società Agricola Italo-Somala was formed, with a capital of 24,000,000 lire (approximately £240,000), for the purpose of developing the Scilde district in Italian Somaliland, watered by the River Scebeli. The enterprise is due to the personal initiative of the Duke of the Abruzzi, who is chairman of the company, as the result of a number of visits to Somaliland, accompanied by a commission of technical experts, during the course of 1919-1920.

The district was chosen on account of the exceptional fertility of the soil, the equitable climate, the peacefulness and the comparative denseness of the indigenous population, and the facility with which, for a distance up to 7 kilometres on either bank of the River Scebeli, irrigation could be effected. The temperature seldom reaches the maximum of 102-3 degrees, the average daily maximum being about 93 degrees, while at night it almost invariably falls below 70 degrees. The heat is healthy and fairly dry, and is tempered by a constant sea breeze by day. The rainfall amounts to only 18 inches annually, and is distributed in two short rainy seasons (April-May and October-November). The seasons are regulated by the monsoons, and two crops are usual per annum.

The River Scebeli rises in Abyssinia and, after approaching the Indian Ocean, turns north-eastwards parallel to the coast for a distance of over 200 miles, until it is lost in the Balli swamps. It receives no tributary after entering Italian territory, so that its flow diminishes during its course through Somaliland. In the Scilde district during times of flood it has a flow of over 250 cubic metres per second and a depth of 5 metres. During the rest of the year it becomes an extremely sluggish stream, 40 metres wide, navigable by flat-bottomed barges only.

The Scilde district lies not far from the sea after the river has made its bend north-eastwards, about 60 miles by road from the Port of Mogadiscio. The company has obtained a concession by private agreement with the natives, and confirmed by the Government, to develop 25,000 hectares of land, 16,000 on the left bank and 9,000 on the right. Of the total, 10,000 hectares are reserved for the cultivation of crops, 15,000 for cattle raising.

By the spring of 1923 the main irrigation works were completed, consisting of a dam at the head of the concession impounding the waters of the Scebeli, together with a weir, lock gates, and bed-discharge channel, used periodically to prevent the reservoir silting up. The irrigation canal system on the left bank (for the irrigation of 6,000 hectares), consisting of a network of larger and smaller canals, was nearing completion by the autumn of 1923. During the construction of these works the ground was cleared of brushwood, levelled, and made ready for cultivation. The concession is divided into a number of large areas for administrative purposes. These are divided into village areas with various small native holdings of from 1½ to 3 hectares in extent, according to the number of the cultivator's family. Each farm obtains its water gratis, and is divided into the part—the larger part—cultivated for cotton and the part cultivated for cereals and forage. The cultivator keeps the whole of the latter crops for himself, while the company keeps the cotton crop, paying the cultivator a biennial bonus in money according to the size and quality of the cotton harvest.

Transport is by barge and motor-boat to Afgoi, whence a railway runs to Mogodiscio. The company possesses a considerable flotilla of boats, a motor transport park, 12 kilometres of Décauville railway, and a full equipment of motor ploughs and other up-to-date agricultural machinery. The organisation is under the personal direction of the Duke, who only returns to Italy on leave at long intervals. All his enthusiasm and genius for organisation have been thrown into the work, which already promises a triumphant success. Over 500 hectares were already under cultivation in 1923 with cotton of the long-fibred Egyptian variety (Sakalla Ridis), and are giving nearly seven quintals per hectare of the raw material or four of the prepared fibre. These figures are higher than what is usual under the best conditions in Egypt. The quality is judged as first-rate. It is hoped by 1925 to bring the greater part of the left bank under cultivation, while the irrigation system and the preparation of the ground on the right bank has already been initiated. It is proposed to grow tobacco and cane sugar as alternatives to cotton, but this side of the enterprise, together with the cattle-raising projects, has not yet emerged beyond the experimental stage—though, of course, cattle and sheep farming on native lines continue on the company's lands as formerly.

No doubt the success of the Duke of the Abruzzi's scheme will lead to similar undertakings being initiated on the Juba River as soon as the agreement with England has been ratified. The Italian colonies have hitherto not proved greatly paying propositions, but there is every reason to look forward to Italian Somaliland's becoming at least a source of considerable wealth to the mother country in the near future.

ANGLO-CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE TO PALESTINE.

The second Anglo-Catholic Pilgrimage will leave England for the Holy Land on April 27, 1925. The Bishops of Jerusalem and Gibraltar have sent letters of welcome, and the Bishop of London has written wishing the effort every success. The main objective is Jerusalem. From Palestine they will go to Cyprus, where the Archbishop will receive them. In Constantinople they will be welcomed by the new Œcumenical Patriarch, and at Athens the Metropolitan will await their coming. The Patriarch of Antioch is also to extend a welcome on their arrival. Only 220 can be included in the party. The pilgrims will return to London on May 25.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

THE BOULTON LOAN TO MONTENEGRO.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—The disaster that has overtaken the firm of merchant bankers, Messrs. Boulton Bros., of Old Broad Street, reminds me that this was the firm that floated the Montenegrin Loan some years before the War, the amount of which was £250,000.

When the War broke out, and the insidious campaign against Montenegro and its King on the part of Serbia commenced, imputing disloyalty and perfidy to this gallant little nation, who always were, albeit the smallest, the most loyal of our Allies, I was confronted one day at the Foreign Office with a statement that King Nicholas had behaved shamefully in the matter of the Boulton Loan. This was the first intimation I received as to the existence of this loan, and I was unable to deny, refute, or accept the charge until I had paid a visit to the firm and ascertained the exact state of affairs. I was then informed that Messrs. Boulton were entirely satisfied with the operation and conduct of the Montenegrin State, that there was no foundation for this reflection upon the honour of the State, and that the loan had been effected and its service regularly and honourably met until War broke out, when the Austrians came into possession of the country, and this naturally made further dealings temporarily impossible.

I was very glad to be in a position to return to the Foreign Office and leave a memorandum on the subject, making it quite clear that this charge, like so many on the part of Serbia against Montenegro, was baseless in fact.

What has happened since the Serbians grabbed Montenegro I do not know, but it would be interesting, in view of the fact that most of the bondholders are British, to know whether Serbia, having taken the country, has also taken over the responsibility of this loan.—I am, etc.,

Alex. Devine.

Northwood Park, Winchester,
November 20.

THE NAIRN TRANSPORT COMPANY.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—It having come to my knowledge that certain people were spreading the rumour that the Nairn Transport Co., of Beyrout, Syria, were proposing to sell their concern to another company, I have cabled Mr. Norman Nairn as to the truth of this, and, in reply, he has authorised me to state that there is not the slightest foundation for this statement.

Mr. Nairn has not the least intention of associating with any other company, native or otherwise, but intends to develop his now flourishing business entirely by himself.

I would add that Mr. Nairn is my son-in-law.—I am, etc.,

J. M. Barclay.

16, Devonshire Square,
Bishopsgate,
November 20.

During the disarmament of the inhabitants of the Baalbek district by the French authorities in Syria, enough abandoned Turkish rifles were collected to equip an entire division. The Nebk district is now being disarmed.

INVESTMENT OR SETTLEMENT

A Permanent Income of £500 per annum after Five Years

THE outlay involved is £125 per annum for 5 years or cash £562 10s. 0d. Actual results obtained by the Company from the sale of its fruit at Covent Garden far exceed figures upon which the above estimate is based. Those who get in now will have seized an opportunity that does not often present itself.

The South African Prudential is developing the finest Citrus Estates in the British Empire. The Government Expert, Mr. Tribolet, has made a very satisfactory report on the progress of these Estates. Dr. Macdonald, the eminent Consulting Agriculturist and Horticulturist, late Director of Agriculture in the Transvaal, states: In the whole range of Modern Agriculture it will be hard to find an investment that offers safer and better returns on capital expenditure than a well-managed

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The following is an extract from the "Times" of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, June 28th, 1923:—

Judged by the excellent display made by the South African Prudential, Ltd., in the Produce Hall, it is little wonder that at last year's Royal Agricultural Show the Company created a world's record by winning the Society's Gold Medal, 17 First Prizes, 3 Specials, 4 Second Prizes, 1 Third, and 1 Highly Commended.

An Investment A Union Government Pamphlet states: Unlike diamond digging, orange growing is **Not a Gamble**

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IMPRESSIONS OF IRAQ.

On November 21, Lord Thomson, late Secretary of State for Air, lectured to the Central Asian Society, at the Royal United Service Institute, on "Impressions of Iraq." Lord Peel, who presided, invited the lecturer to cast off the mantle of official reticence.

But, for the sake of his successors in office, Lord Thomson was not so derobing himself. He briefly outlined his recent tour by air to and through Iraq. From the aerodrome at Heliopolis he flew to Amman, and thence to Baghdad. This City of the Caliphs he found to be rather a "city of opinions." Thence he went to Mosul and the frontier towns. He mentioned such places as Zahko, Amadiyeh, Rowanduz, and Arbil. Having inspected many troops and having interviewed many people, he was by this time a little fatigued, and wished to return to Baghdad. But he was persuaded to go to Suleimaniyeh, and subsequently, for the conception which he therefrom obtained of what British prestige meant, was very glad he had done so. A little before his arrival Sheikh Mahmoud had, by his activities, reduced this pleasant town of 20,000 inhabitants to one of about 700. The R.A.F. finally decided to bomb him, with the result that already, by the time the lecturer had reached the place, 12,000 had returned to their homes. The reception that the Suleimaniyehites gave him was extraordinarily favourable. Notables fell over each other in the profusion of their thanks to the British; merchants' jaws dropped with anxiety at the mere suggestion that Britain should ultimately evacuate Iraq; and even the sheikhs thought the present arrangement as good as any.

There were three prominent events, Lord Thomson said, that happened about the time of his visit to Arabia. First, there was the Wahhabi invasion of Transjordan. There was no doubt that the repulse of the invaders by aeroplanes and armoured cars had taught the Wahhabis an unforgettable lesson, and he believed that, dreadful as the method of bombing was, it was the cheapest and most efficient and really the most humane way of inculcating respect for frontiers. Secondly, there was the invasion of the Hejaz by Ibn Saoud's men—a move which fluttered considerably the dovecots at Amman and Baghdad. Both Emir Abdullah and King Faisal expressed to the lecturer their anxiety on this point. And lastly, there was the trouble with the Turks on the north-west frontier. The activities of the Turks in this region were, Lord Thomson thought, directed in a purely punitive sense against the Assyrians, and he looked for slow rather than dramatic developments in this part. If Britain exercised unceasing vigilance, probably all would be well. But the slightest sign of wobble and trouble would ensue.

The lecturer then delivered himself of some generalisations upon the various types of Jews whom he had encountered. Of the Arabs he said that it was difficult to place implicit strength in their military capacity. The nomadic trait in their character militated against the sense of discipline, although the Levies under British officers were fine material. The Arab Army under native officers was not reliable. King Faisal himself was alive to this danger. Further, from the air point of view, Arabs might become excellent pilots, but whether they had the driving force and the perseverance to organise work on the ground was very doubtful. The Kurds, said the lecturer, would always be a problem. They had a passion for "spotting the winner," and if they thought that Britain was to be on the losing side they would unhesitatingly go over to the Turks. The reason, incidentally, that a plebiscite was refused for Kurdistan was that, whereas, if the Kurds voted for the British, the Turks would punish them, if they voted for the Turks, the British would take no reprisals! A very difficult question was presented by the Assyrian Christians (Nestorians). The position at the moment was one-sided. Britain had done much for these Nestorians, but there was evidence to show that they had done little for themselves. Vigilance in this matter was extremely necessary. In connection with the Jews, Lord Thomson used the words "insoluble problem," and quoted the story of the Jews being given land and no work was done, of their further being given agricultural implements to till the land, and still no work was done because the accursed Arabs were so lazy!

The great thing for Iraq was, in the lecturer's opinion, the development neither of its oil resources nor of its wheat resources (although more was to be made from the latter), but—security. Security was the first essential, and in obtaining it this country had a great responsibility. In these circumstances he could not advocate a policy of scuttle, which would entail a tremendous fall in British prestige. Further, a settled Iraq was absolutely necessary to the scheme of developing the air route to India. The building up of Iraq was inevitably a long business, but a beginning had been made by opening it up to the outside world. In this connection Lord Thomson instanced the Nairn service of motor-cars.

In the subsequent discussion, to which Sir Michael O'Dwyer, Sir Charles Yate, Colonel Bramley, and Mr. F. H. Skrine contributed, great satisfaction was expressed with the lecturer's view that Britain must fulfil her pledges in Iraq, and that, in certain circumstances, bombing by aeroplanes is justified.

THE PROBLEM OF GEORGIA.

Under the auspices of the Near and Middle East Association, and by the kindness of Mrs. James Conchie, a meeting to discuss "The Problem of Georgia" was held on November 18 at 28, Great Cumberland Place, W.1. Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen presided. After the "orthodox" Georgian view of Georgian history had been given by a native of the country, a view which emphasised the fact that Georgians still long as ever for their independence, Mr. A. Safrastian described the Russian point of view as it at present exists. He asserted that the Georgian peasantry—that is, the main portion of Georgia's inhabitants—were not very averse from the present régime of the Soviets, which, indeed, had done much for them in the way of agrarian reform. What the peasant wanted, above all, was peace, and with that achieved. Georgia, which from its economic and strategic position was the most favourably situated of all the Caucasian States, would assuredly forge ahead. Mr. Safrastian did not approve of Nationalist risings in the Caucasus, which he knew, from his experience in his native Armenia and elsewhere, meant famine and death.

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He was followed by Mr. W. E. D. Allen, the main purport of whose speech was to persuade English people to have done with muddle-headed sentimentality—the sentimentality which urged them to sympathise with and encourage small nations in a hopeless revolt—and to tell the Georgian people not to trust in any promises, actual or implied, of British intervention in their cause. Particularly he lamented the effect that the recent visit of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and other Continental exponents of Socialist doctrine had on Georgia. Great nations intervened on behalf of small nations only when it was to their direct interest, and the worthlessness of paper resolutions in regard to the integrity of Georgia was most striking.

In the subsequent discussion Mr. H. W. Nevinson protested against the views that treaties were of no avail, and that the mass of the Georgian people were content under the Soviet yoke. Dr. E. W. Griffin also protested that what Russia had done for Georgia (in the way of railways, roads, and so on) had been done, not by the Russians, but by means of British gold, repayment of which was now repudiated. It was, moreover, precisely that attitude which permitted Mr. Safrastian to acquiesce in the expropriation of land on behalf of Georgian peasants that showed the moral gulf between Russia and the Western nations.

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

A Council meeting of the Arab Horse Society was held on November 5, at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, Mr. T. C. Armitage (President) being in the chair. There were also present :—Messrs. E. R. Calthrop, H. V. M. Clark, Capt. T. A. Clarke, Messrs. C. W. Hough, Edward Hurtley, C. W. Laird, Brig.-Gen. F. F. Lance, Major Sydney A. Medcalf, Messrs. G. H. Ruxton, W. F. Saunt, and Lt.-Col. P. D. Stewart.

The following new members were elected :—Guerreros, M., Jerez de la Frontera, Spain; Mitchell, Lieut.-Col. A. J., 3, Clanricarde Gardens, Tunbridge Wells; Norton, Col. C. E. G., C. B., C.S.I., A.D.C., 40, Hyde Park Square, London, W.2.; Reed, A. Curwen, Hailsham, Sussex; Schmidt, Carl R., 634, West Central Avenue, Sierra Madre, California, U.S.A., and Tudor, Maj.-Gen. Sir Hugh, Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, S.W.1. It was decided to have eight Arab and Arab-bred Classes at the London Show, 1925, and two gold medals, with a Challenge Cup presented by Mrs. Walter Reid for the best stallion or colt (foaled in 1921, 1922, 1923, or 1924).

Entries were received for the Arab Horse Stud Book, Vol. III.

SHAKESPEARE IN INDIA.

Dr. C. Sisson (Reader in English at University College), lecturing at King's College, with Prof. Sir Israel Gollancz in the chair, on November 21, under the auspices of the Shakespeare Association, said that India was the only country in the world where the owners of popular theatres could count on a profit on a Shakespearean production. In the Bombay bazaar was a group of theatres, in the heart of a poor native population, where Shakespeare was acted in Marathi, Gujarati, Hindi, and Urdu. Extreme liberties were taken with text and plot, comic interludes being introduced with no relation to the play, which in itself became an amalgam of opera and ballet. From 1890 onwards, said the lecturer, Shakespeare had been played in the vernacular adaptations and applauded by men of all castes. The fundamental acting quality of Shakespeare was as triumphant in Bombay as it was in Tudor London or at the Old Vic. to-day. In these Bombay theatres there were no actresses, women's parts being played by men and boys.

KURDISTAN MEDAL AND CLASP.

The King has approved of the grant of the General Service Medal with clasp "Kurdistan" instituted in January, 1923, being extended to the military forces employed in the operations in Kurdistan in 1923, under the command of Air-Marshal Sir J. M. Salmond. Subject to claims being approved by the Army Council, the medal and clasp will be granted to the troops who served with the force under Colonel-Commandant B. Vincent between March 19, 1923, and June 18, 1923 (inclusive) or with the force under Colonel-Commandant H. T. Dobbin between March 27, 1923, and April 28, 1923 (inclusive). Individuals already awarded the medal will receive the clasp only.

Mr. Howard Carter is due to arrive in Cairo this week to resume his work on the Tomb of Tutankhamen.

Sir Muhammad Rafique, who was recently appointed a member of the Council of India, left London last week for India.

In order to avoid the possibility of damage to the crops, it has been decided to hold Indian Army manœuvres in the week ending January 17, artillery practice following on the 19th, and the review on the 21st.

The Œcumenical Patriarch, Mgr. Gregorios VII., Zerbondakis, who had been ill for a considerable time, died at Constantinople on November 17. He was elected to the Throne of St. Chrysostom on December 6, 1923.

An earthquake, lasting forty seconds, occurred on November 22, and affected many towns in Anatolia. The newly-constructed railway station at Oushak was destroyed, and considerable damage was caused at Afion Karahissar, Tchaouchdji Tchai, Konia, and Eskishehir.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Anglo-Persian.

At the meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Sir Charles Greenway, after pointing out that the figures confirmed his anticipation a year ago as to the results of the past twelve months, said that it was more than ever difficult to venture a forecast as regards the current year. The company's anticipations in regard to throughput are being fully realised, but prices recently have shown an appreciable decline as compared with the average of the past year, and abnormal competition still continues in some of the selling markets. Provided there is no further decline in prices, Sir Charles said that they were hopeful that the current year would show a considerable increase in the profits. As regards the probable course of prices, he remarked that it was always dangerous to prophesy. A year ago it seemed as if consumption were overtaking production, and this would have happened but for developments in the United States, the result of which was, temporarily, he thought, again to bring production ahead of consumption. On the other hand, there has been an enormous increase all over the world in the consumption of petroleum products, almost, if not quite, sufficient to counterbalance the increased production, and, in his view, now that the production of crude is again declining, and provided no prolific new fields are discovered in the near future, oil prices have reached their lowest, and any change will be in the other direction.

Sudan Trade Expansion.

The figures for the trade of the Sudan for the first eight months of this year are now available, and show a notable expansion both as regards exports and imports. The total value of trade for the period was £E6,419,729, as compared with £E4,920,264 for the same period of 1923, there being thus an increase of one and a-half millions. The value of the imports was £E3,478,231, as against £E2,851,097, an increase of £E627,134, while the value of exports and re-exports rose from £E1,951,162 to £E2,774,650. The increase in Government imports was largely due to the importation of material for the Sennar Dam and Kassala Railway, while the feature in the export trade has been the great expansion in the exports of cotton. As regards the distribution of the trade. Egypt was first in the list of countries exporting to the Sudan with £E1,185,887, or 34.1 per cent., Great Britain being a close second with £E1,152,110, or 33.1 per cent. Great Britain was easily first among countries importing from the Sudan with £E1,875,957, or 67.6 per cent., Egypt being second with £E320,511, or 11.5 per cent. The figures for the eight months indicate very clearly the progress being made in the Sudan. There is still an adverse trade balance of a considerable nature, but this is in process of disappearing, and when the Gezira scheme is in full operation, the trade figures should make a very different showing.

Lake Copais Company.

The handicap to the development of this company due to the fact that agreements arrived at defining the company's rights under its concession have not been ratified in the Greek Chamber of Deputies owing to political changes, was emphasised at the general meeting in July by the chairman, who pointed out that though the company has rendered a national service to Greece it has not yet earned a dividend on its share capital. It is now announced by the company that the Greek Government has introduced a Bill to the Chamber of Deputies providing for the appointment of arbitrators by the State and the company and, if necessary, of a referee to be nominated by the President of the Swiss Confederation or the President of the International Court at The Hague. The Greek Government, and also the National Bank of Greece, have pledged themselves to see that a final settlement of all matters at issue between the State and the company is arrived at without delay. This satisfactory outcome will go far to establish that degree of confidence on the part of investors which is essential if further capital on a large scale is to be obtained for similar works of development.

The Company's Work.

The company's statement announcing the development briefly summarises the company's position, and it may be of interest if I give the salient facts here. Under a concession the company has reclaimed some 60,000 acres of land and converted what was once a fever-breeding marsh into a tract of arable and pasture land. This yielded during 1923 about 15,000 tons of produce for consumption in Greece, besides providing excellent grazing for the rearing and fattening of about 100,000 head of stock. The company maintains an elaborate drainage and irrigation system, and has spent, and is still spending, large sums on the upkeep and perfecting of this system, without which the area would soon revert to its original state. The company's concession entitles it to the freehold of 20,000 acres of land and the leasehold of the remainder of the area reclaimed, but, as already indicated, the progress of the business has been seriously impeded, owing to uncertainty as to the exact position.

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BULGARIAN EXPORT TRADE DIFFICULTIES

(From a Correspondent.)

In recent articles attention has been drawn to some of the industries of Bulgaria, which are slowly but quietly coming to the front and claiming more and more attention from the outside world. In this connection it is of interest to study the question of the present position as regards the export trade of Bulgaria.

It must be borne in mind that the Bulgarian, who is essentially a hard worker, is carrying a heavy load on his shoulders in that he alone is paying the indemnity imposed, and this he does without murmurs. To raise the money necessary for the purchase of gold for these payments, and also for the payment of the army, as conscription no longer exists (for this is forbidden by the Peace Treaty), he requires to put heavy taxes on all imports and exports and also to forbid the importation of luxuries, which include tooth brushes, cigarette lighters, and packets of cigarette papers, etc. The income-tax is also extremely heavy, probably the heaviest in the world, and there is a scarcity of money at all times. The foreign buyer who comes here with plenty of money finds great difficulty in purchasing the goods he requires, for he finds that a system of advances and combinations is almost universally practised throughout the country, and unless he is willing to arrive here several months before the season of the goods he requires, and to give advances to the producer, he will find that all the best quality goods are already mortgaged.

For instance, in the attar of rose industry advances have already been made to the growers of 5 levas per kilo for the flowers, which will not be ready for market until May, 1925. Therefore the buyer of rose oil who arrives from abroad in May next will find that all the rose crop has been mortgaged to the distilleries, who in their turn have made their contracts with the consumers in France, America, etc. For this reason the occasional purchaser will only find a few kilos of oil for sale, and this will probably be of an inferior quality, which the distilleries have refused to advance money on, owing to the unsuitable aspect of the gardens or the presence of the Rosa alba in the plantations.

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The fur traders have already advanced money to their hunters and trappers, and the furs that will come on to this market three months hence will be those that the resident expert does not require for his foreign parcels.

Then there is the combination of grower and producer, or grower, producer, and capitalist, such as takes effect in the majority of the mills. The capitalist approaches the oil-seed mill owner and offers to purchase, at market price on the day of delivery, but paying advances up to 50 per cent. of the estimated value of the goods in advance, all the output of the mill, reserving to himself the right to buy the seed and supply the mill. The mill owner, in case this latter clause has not been put in his contract, approaches the head man of one of the communities and informs him that he will guarantee to take so many hundred tons of seed in the coming season, and he advances money to the community up to 30 per cent. of the estimated value of the crop for the purchase of seed and implements, etc.

Lambs casings for making surgical thread and for gut for tennis rackets and strings for musical instruments are also much sought after, and more than 50 per cent. of this year's production was mortgaged before the lambing season commenced!

As will be seen from the above, the exporter of Bulgarian produce must be a resident in the country, for, if he relies on purchasing the goods he requires at the beginning of the season, he will not find that he gets either the quality or the quantity he requires. Customs duties are paid on goods according to the fixed rate percentage which the Government decides at the beginning of the season, and these being high in all cases it does not pay to export anything but the best quality.

TENDERS INVITED.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Electric Power Station and Distribution Lines.—The Municipalities and Local Commissions Section of the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, Savoy House, Cairo, invite tenders for the supply and installation of the equipment for an electric power station and distribution system for the town of Mellawi. The contract is divided into two sections. The first comprises the construction of the foundations for the generating sets, the supply and installations of two Diesel-driven generating sets of 80 k.v.a. and one set of 160 k.v.a., together with distribution boards, switchboards, etc., and all accessories. The second section comprises the supply and installation of underground cables and of the transformer cabins, poles, insulators, brackets, overhead copper conductors, lamps, etc. The power to be produced is 3-phase alternating current at 3,300 volts of 50 cycles, and is to be transmitted at this pressure by two underground cables to 6 transformer cabins, where the voltage will be reduced to 200. The consumer's voltage is to be 200, and is to be distributed by a 3-phase, 3-wire, overhead copper transmission line. Sixteen transformers are required, two each of 5, 20, 25, and 100 k.v.a. and four each of 10 and 15 k.v.a. December 28. (D.O.T.)

School Materials, etc.—The Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of large quantities of the following articles:—(1) School materials, such as exercise books, Arabic reed pens, rulers, slates, brass compasses. (2) Linen, such as cotton sheeting, tulle for mosquito nets, towels, Morocco woollen blankets. (3) Table requisites, such as china and enamelled plates, glass tumblers, aluminium cups, spoons, forks, knives. (4) Clothing for girls, such as bleached, unbleached, and printed calico, castor, stockings, shoes. (5) Needlework materials, such as reels of sewing cotton and silk, needles. (6) Cleaning materials, such as brushes, brooms, soap, canvas. January 3.

Drugs.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of drugs required for the period of one year from April 1, 1925. January 6.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Quiet Conditions.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended November 22, states :—

During the past week quiet conditions have again prevailed, although in some quarters traders express themselves as quite satisfied with the amount of business transacted. There would appear to be good grounds for the belief that many buying orders are being held up in anticipation of a lower range of prices in view of the recent satisfactory American crop estimates. Opinions are divided as to the result of the ballot to be announced next week on the subject of increased working hours, and in many quarters doubt is expressed whether sufficient members of the Spinners' Federation will vote in favour of the leaders' recommendation.

Yarn.—Business in this section has been disappointing, and the attitude of spinners shows signs of weakening. On the one hand, certain qualities of yarn spun from American cotton are in keen demand, and early deliveries are required, whilst on the other hand, users who can afford to wait appear quite prepared to back their opinion regarding lower prices a little later on. Export trade has shrunk to some extent, though Continental demand has shown a tendency to broaden, and some important purchases are said to have been made on behalf of Germany.

Cloth.—The market reports regarding the volume of business during the past week vary rather considerably, and the trade may perhaps best be described as patchy. In the aggregate, however, it would appear that rather more orders have been booked than in the preceding week. Indian demand has not come up to expectations, though some important lines in certain classes of cloth are said to have been booked for Bombay and Madras. Orders for China have been scarce and of unimportant dimensions. Buyers for South America have placed some very welcome lines. Egypt and the Levant have bought moderate quantities, but the prices asked have been a hindrance to the development hoped for. Home trade houses have been buying more recently, but there is yet room for considerable improvement.

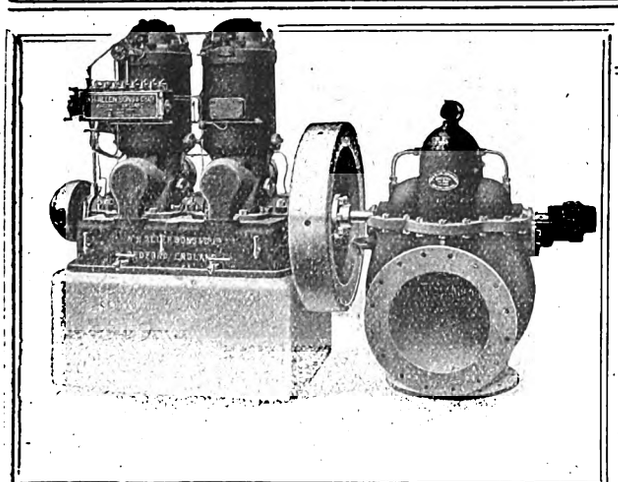
Raw Cotton.—The official American Bureau report issued yesterday afternoon estimates the crop at 12,992,000 bales, being a slight improvement on the figures published a fortnight ago. The market received the news phlegmatically, and the effect on prices was negligible. There has been little marked change in raw cotton quotations during the week, and the only feature worthy of note is the increase in the stocks of American cotton now held in Liverpool owing to recent large imports. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows :—American middling, 13.63; Egyptian fully good fair, 25.65.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Variable.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended November 13, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has experienced wide fluctuations, and closes slightly higher than last week, as follows: Sakellaridis, $0.05 down for November, $0.22 up for January, $0.40 up for March, $0.30 up for May, $0.10 up for November, 1925; Ashmouni, $0.60 up for December, $0.80 up for February, $0.95 up for April, $0.40 up for October, 1925. At the beginning of the week much excitement prevailed in the Sakel market, and prices, mainly owing to speculative manipulation, were pushed very high. The rise in price, however, had the result of stopping the demand from abroad, depriving the market of commercial support; this and some hedging against cotton coming from up-country have tended to check the bullish feeling of the market and provoke realisations, and all the advance has been lost. The decline has affected Sakel more than Uppers, as New York this week has been firm. Native merchants in the interior, encouraged by the recent rise, have paid in some cases absolutely absurd prices, and it is feared that should the market drop further they may be compelled to hedge their holdings hurriedly, and thus cause a break in prices. Under these circumstances, the future course mainly depends upon the demand from abroad: if the latter does not improve appreciably, prices may be affected by the arrivals from up-country, which are bound to be heavy for some time to come. Reports from textile centres are in general satisfactory, especially in England and America, and it is expected that the result of the recent elections in these two countries will lead to further improvement; however, owing to the fact that the



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prices of Egyptian cotton have been so high of late compared to other growths, it has only partially benefited from the improved conditions. At the November 2 tender no dockets were issued. The week's receipts amount to 366,715 krs, against exports 258,117 krs.; the stock stands at 1,610,154 krs.

The report of the Ministry of Agriculture for October reads: Weather conditions were favourable to maturation of late crop. The first and much of the second picking has been completed; small areas of second picking remain, and will be gathered early in November. The general quality of cotton, both Sakellaridis and Ashmouni, is good with absence of large proportions of either the very high or very low grades. The quality of seed is reported to be lower than last year, but in some districts, especially in Northern Gharbiya, the quality of seed is reported higher than usual. Ginning outturns have fallen since early ginnings, and are estimated as being about or little above average. Yield results of Ashmouni type cotton in Lower Egypt have, with few exceptions, been below expectations, and cultivators do not seem at the moment inclined towards extensive sowing of Ashmouni in Lower Egypt in the coming season.

Spot.—We have had a week of active markets at Minet el Bassal, and sales amount to about 35,100 bales, of which we estimate 17,800 bales Sakellaridis, 8,900 bales Uppers, 6,800 bales Zagora, 900 bales Pilion, 400 bales Brown, and 300 bales White.

Sakellaridis.—There has been business in all styles except the very low grades. Medium and Good grades have attracted most attention, but the present high prices are having their effect, and the demand from spinners has slackened considerably. This fact, coupled with the weight of arrivals now being offered, has caused a substantial cheapening of spot premiums, which are generally markedly easier. Fair exceptionally maintains its parity with contracts.

Uppers.—There has been a good demand for all grades from Fully Fair upwards. Spot parities are well maintained at last week's rates. There is, however, rather more cotton offering.

Lower Egypt Zagora has continued in good request principally for the medium and good qualities. Prices of spot against contracts are steady and without change from last week.

Pilion.—Continues in active request, and good lots are still readily bought at high premiums. Prices of spot against contracts are very irregular, but generally considerably dearer.

Brown.—A good business has been done. Spot premiums are considerably dearer than last week.

White.—A moderate business has been done mostly in the medium and better grades. Prices of spot against contracts are considerably easier.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Sudan in Good Demand.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended November 19:—Egyptian Spot. The inquiry for spot Egyptian has been well maintained, and, although no fresh weight of business has been reported, the general tone has been decidedly "bullish," owing chiefly to the strength of the Alexandria market. The scarcity of Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis has again been most marked, and this cotton changed hands to-day at 26.50d., or 135 points over the official spot quotation of a week ago. The better qualities have not been so much in demand, as the prices now asked are out of the reach of most spinners for the time being. Occasionally an inquiry has been received for Extra or Super Fine Sakel, but in every case the spinners' idea of the value of the cotton has been several pence per lb. different from that of the seller. Thus, for the immediate future, we cannot foresee much broadening in the amount of business being done in this direction. Amongst the lower qualities slightly more interest has been displayed, chiefly in the "shy Good Fair" cotton. Prices are very irregular. In Uppers a fairly good inquiry has been in evidence, particularly for the "best," prices for which have ruled between 18.50d. and 19.50d. per lb. A fair amount of business has been done in good Pillion cotton at about pass price January Egyptian. Brown and White have been neglected, but quite a good trade has been done in White Sudan, which at the moment is in considerable request at about 350 on American. C.i.f. business on the whole has been quiet, but here and there a few small lines have been placed—nearly all for prompt shipment. Forwardings for the week ending 14th inst. were returned as 13,750 bales. Quotations of Upper and Brown have been advanced 70 points, those of Sakel 85 points. Estimated sales, 1,400 bales Egyptian and 1,050 bales Sudan. Fully Good Fair Sakel to-day 26.00d.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN IRAQ.

The Agricultural Bulletin of Iraq for the month ended October 15 gives the following particulars:

Reports from Basrah state that the unusual prevalence of north and north-westerly winds has continued to affect the date crop adversely. At this season also the tides are low and the banking up action of a south wind is needed to facilitate irrigation. Usually the south wind prevails at this season, but during the month under report irrigation has been rendered difficult, owing to its absence.

Reports from the Hillah district state that the mild season has been favourable to the rice crop, whilst throughout the country the climatic conditions of September favoured flower and boll formation in the cotton crop. The prices of wheat and barley remained fairly steady, though the local variations continue to be very marked. All districts report a great scarcity of suitable seed for winter sowings. All departmental seed available has been issued, but the quantities are negligible in view of the universal shortage.

A report has been received from the Imperial Institute on seventeen varieties of wheat which have been under experiment at the Government Experimental Farm. It is gratifying to learn that the wheats which had been selected for their agricultural qualities such as yield, earliness, and rust resistance, have also been placed first on the list for baking qualities. It would appear that Iraqi wheats are on the whole "weak," and that imported varieties tend to lose strength after some years of cultivation in this country.

Date packing continued throughout the period under report, and shipping commenced on September 16. "Hallawi" packing is practically completed, and the yield is well above the average, though the quality is impaired by the too rapid ripening caused by the hot winds. "Khadrawis" appear to be a better crop than was anticipated and the quality is good.

National Insurance Companies.
"BALKAN FIRE AND MARINE"
(ESTABLISHED IN 1895).
"BALKAN LIFE AND ACCIDENT" and
General Re-insurance Company "BALKAN."
Capital: Leva 5,000,000 each.
Total Guarantees: Leva 100,045,000.
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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Company Meeting.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY.

Greatly Increased Production.

Prospects for Current Year.

The fifteenth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd., was held on November 25 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street. Sir Charles Greenway, Bart. (chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary (Mr. John Clark) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: You have had submitted to you our report and balance-sheet for the past financial year, and I now have the pleasure to amplify these by my usual annual comments upon the position of the company and its progress.

The report and accounts have been submitted a few weeks earlier than on the last occasion, and we hope in future years that we may be able to do still better. But I would ask you to bear in mind that the closing of the accounts of a business with such extensive ramifications as ours takes a good deal of time if complete results are to be shown. Before we can close our accounts we have to wait for the final returns from our various foreign branches after the auditing of their books, and thereafter for the closing and auditing of the books of our various associated companies in this country and for the declarations of their dividends.

Profits.

When last I had the pleasure of meeting you I indicated that I did not anticipate any improvement in results for the past financial year. This anticipation is confirmed by the figures now before you. I explained last year some of the adverse factors which militated against better results being shown, but one other to which I did not then refer was the competition which we have experienced in some of the Continental markets in which we have established ourselves. In some of these markets "rate wars" have been carried on to an insane extent, but we can await the result with perfect equanimity; since for every shilling that we lose our competitors must lose two, or more. Taking into account these conditions and those previously explained, the results shown may, I think, be regarded with satisfaction.

The dividend on the ordinary shares which we have recommended is again 10 per cent. As in the case of the previous year, the profits shown might have justified a higher rate of dividend, but with a view to conserving our financial resources as much as possible—in regard to which point I shall have something more to say later on—we have again deemed it advisable to follow a conservative policy.

Prospects of Current Year.

As regards the current year, it is more than ever difficult to venture a forecast. Last year I indicated the possibility of a considerable improvement, basing this on the further anticipated large increase in our throughput, but subject, of course, to there being no further decline in the prices of products. Our anticipations in regard to throughput are being fully realised, but prices during the past few months have shown an appreciable decline as compared with the average of the past year, and the abnormal competition to which I have referred still continues in some of our selling markets. Provided, however, that there is no further decline in prices we are hopeful that the current year will show a considerable increase in our profits.

Market Prospects.

As to the probable future course of prices for petroleum products it is, as I said last year, always dangerous to prophesy. At that time it looked as if consumption were overtaking production. This would have happened had it not been for the bringing in of some new fields in the United States, and for the reckless system of drilling obtaining in that country, which results from a large number of competing producers being able to operate at the same time in one field, regardless of the life of the field or of market considerations. The combined effect of these causes was—temporarily only I think—again to bring production ahead of consumption. On the other hand, there has been an enormous increase all over the world in the consumption of petroleum products, sufficient nearly, if not quite, to counterbalance the increased production, and now that the production of crude has again begun to decline there is every reason for believing that, subject to no prolific new fields being discovered in the near future, the barometer of oil prices has reached its lowest point, and that any change will be in the "fair weather" direction. The weakness of prices in the United States during the past few months has, I should point out, not been due so much to the growth of production as compared with consumption, as to the want of sufficient storage accommodation, for both crude oil and products, to meet the expanding trade, since stocks in that country, relatively to its increased consumption and exports, show an appreciable decline on the figure at which they stood when prices were on a higher level. This is, however, a difficulty which is being daily overcome, and when the tankage in that country has been sufficiently extended the forced sales which have been so marked a characteristic of the American market for some time past must necessarily cease, and prices be re-established on a basis more consistent with the world's average cost of production. I do not, of course, speak of our cost of production, because in this respect we stand, as I have previously pointed out, in an exceptionally favoured position, owing to the unique productivity and life of our wells, and to the very high quality of our crude.

Balance-sheet.

I will now deal with the items of the balance-sheet which call for explanation. Taking the debit side first of all, the only changes of importance are (1) the amount of issued capital, which shows an increase of £121,233 10s., being the amount of calls on the last issue of capital outstanding at March 31, 1923, but since paid; (2) redemption of debentures to the amount of £125,000; (3) the £2,000,000 five year secured Notes, which were issued during the year and applied to paying off the loan from our bankers which in the previous accounts stood at £2,829,000; (4) employees' provident, pension and insurance fund shows an increase for the year of £273,034 6s. 5d., and now stands at the satisfactory total of £1,089,812 3s. 5d.; and (5) the reserves, which show an increase of £202,940 18s., bringing the total up to £5,283,128 11s. 6d.

The profit and loss account shows, as you will see, after payment of preference dividend up to September 30, a total remaining to be dealt with of £3,079,143 9s. 11d., as compared with £2,993,051 17s. 2d. in the previous year. Out of the former amount we have since paid a further £437,500 in respect of preference dividends for the half-year ended March 31 last, and we now recommend the payment on December 31 next of the dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares to which I have already referred, absorbing £895,000, leaving a balance of £1,746,643 9s. 11d. to be carried forward. This balance, as before, is subject to such excess profits duty as we may be ultimately called upon to pay, and also to corporation profits tax for the year ended March 31 last. No settlement in respect of the former item has, I am sorry to say, yet been arrived at, but whatever it may be, it and also the liability for corporation profits tax are very amply covered by the balance carried forward.

Dealing now with the credit side, the only items calling for remark are: (1) Purchase price of concessions, shares in and advances to associated companies, etc. The amount appearing under this heading shows an increase on the previous year of £98,457 10s. 5d., but on the other hand, the contingent liability has been reduced by £1,767,906 2s. 9d. (2) Refineries, tank installations, etc., etc. This item shows an increase for the year of £232,640 7s. 7d., being the balance of capital expenditure in excess of the amounts written off for depreciation. (3) Stocks of stores and materials show a reduction of £63,651 10s. 10d. (4) Our cash at bankers and in hand stands at £876,359 5s. 4d., as compared with £561,182 6s. 2d. During the year we disposed of the War Loan stock, which appeared in the last

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balance-sheet at a cost of £594,427 17s., but our net liquid position shows, as will be seen from the balance-sheet, a satisfactory improvement.

Renewed Attacks on the Company.

Last year I referred to the attacks which had been made upon the company, and the attempts which had been made to depreciate the value of our concern. We had hoped that the information and explanations I then gave would have enabled the public and the Press to have grasped the true position and facts. It is, therefore, a matter of great regret to us to find that there has lately been a very strong recrudescence of these attacks, and, consequently, I feel it necessary, in justice to our shareholders and to the public generally, again to deal with the matter and to give some further particulars of the present position of the company in order that everyone may fully understand its great potentialities and the magnitude of its operations.

In the first place, I will give you some figures in connection with the present state of development of our own and our associated concerns. The production of crude from our main Persian fields is to-day at the rate of 4½ millions of tons per annum—the maximum quantity we are in a position at the moment to dispose of—all of this being produced from flowing wells. In addition to those from which we are producing, we have a large number of others drilled in and capped, and ready to yield their oil in equal abundance, at any time that it may be required. Last year I reported to you that we had proved a valuable field in an entirely new area, and I am pleased to say that the further developments in this field fully confirm what I then said of it. In the Argentine, also, I have to report that the further drilling to which I referred last year led to the striking of oil in considerable quantities, thus further augmenting our sources of supply.

We have now in operation about 700 miles of pipe lines, a large portion of them being of 10 in. or more in diameter; 1,510 storage tanks situated in various parts of the world, and 332 boilers and 31 boiler houses. We have nine separate refineries, situated in different parts of the world. Among our buildings we have 180 workshops and factories, 4,239 dwelling-houses and bungalows, 69 blocks of buildings for the accommodation of our native staff, and over 1,000 other buildings of a miscellaneous description. We have in connection with our distributing organisations 685 bulk oil installations, including 48 ocean installations (i.e., installations erected at various ports in different parts of the world), and 708 subsidiary installations. We provide employment for over 50,000 people, including 20,500 of British nationality. We have 164 miles of railways situated in and outside our works, 71 locomotives, and 3,462 rail tank cars and wagons. We have for road transport 1,847 motor lorries, motor tractors, and tank cars, apart from a large number of horse and mule-drawn vehicles. Our fleet now amounts to a total of 333 vessels of all descriptions, all fully employed, including 67 tankers nearly all built within the past eight years. To accommodate these vessels, and to handle the cargoes they carry, we have built or acquired no less than 89 jetties and wharves at the various ports where they call. For the carrying on of the different operations of our business—producing, refining, storing, and distributing—we have had to purchase tens of thousands of acres of land in the various countries where these operations are being carried on. We have in Persia five hospitals containing 274 beds, 11 British and 2 Indian doctors, and 20 British nurses. I may mention that at these hospitals we last year gave free treatment to no less than 3,866 in-patients and over 34,000 out-patients. A large proportion of these patients were local Persians not in the employment of the company, and it is needless for me to say that this beneficent care of the inhabitants of the country in which we are operating has been greatly appreciated by them, and has been of invaluable assistance to us in our relations with the local tribes. In addition, we are contributing liberally to the principal Persian hospital in Teheran. We are also giving financial aid to several schools in different parts of Persia with the object of educating and training Persians to fill the various capacities for which there are openings in the company's service.

We have also provided in Persia and elsewhere a number of fully equipped clubs for the recreation of our various staffs. I would add that the plant and buildings which we have erected at our fields, refineries, and elsewhere are all of the most improved modern type, and have been designed with a view to securing the maximum of efficiency at the minimum of cost.

The few figures I have quoted will give you some idea of the huge organisation which we have built up in the thirteen years which have elapsed since we first began operations, and it is a record of development which, I am confident, has not been equalled in the same short space of time by any other concern in the commercial history of the world.

As to our financial policy and administration, I claim that in these also we can show a record unequalled by any other company in the same period of time. I told you last year that during the previous three years we had provided out of revenue no less than £12,000,000 for new capital outlay. I will now add to these figures by telling you that since we first became a revenue-producing concern in 1914—only ten years ago—we have provided out of our earnings a total of no less than £19,000,000 for expenditure of a capital nature, in addition to paying out the sum of over 9¼ millions in dividends and debenture interest. These figures are, I think, an ample demonstration of the soundness of our financial policy, inasmuch as by restricting our capital issues to a figure far below the amount of our capital expenditure we have greatly enhanced the intrinsic value of our ordinary shares without at any time straining our financial position. Some financial critic scoffed at the statement I made last year that the assets of the company would, on a modest computation, be valued at two or three times the amount at which they then stood in our balance-sheet. If he will ponder over some of the figures I have given you to-day—and add to the estimate he then arrives at his own estimate of the value of our various concessions on the basis of the information which is available to everyone—he will find that my statement erred much on the side of modesty rather than the reverse.

I hope, gentlemen, that I have not wearied you with this long explanation of the company's position. I am afraid that what I have said savours very much of self-praise. This is extremely distasteful to all of us, and we would have very much preferred to have continued "hiding our light under a bushel"—particularly as in the oil business it is not advisable to let our competitors know too much of what one is doing. But the false atmosphere which has been

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created by our detractors renders it necessary that the position of the company should be better understood, and from what I have said you will, I am sure, all be satisfied that the statements which have been recently again put into circulation are entirely devoid of foundation, and that you will share with us the great pride we feel in being associated with a concern which has, notwithstanding the strong opposition it has always had to contend with, achieved such a unique record of development and success.

Before passing from this subject, I would like to mention that our fields and refineries in Persia were visited a few months ago—with our permission, of course—by three American experts of the highest repute, and that their confidential report—which, by the courtesy of their principals, I have been permitted to see—was, I am pleased to say, of a very favourable character, it being admitted that our arrangements were in some respects even in advance of the latest U.S. methods. Independent testimony of this nature is, I think you will all agree, far more reliable and convincing than loose dinner-table talk or whisperings of men who have no actual knowledge of our operations or of our great potentialities.

Success, as we all know, breeds envy. Envy, by itself, we do not object to, for it is a tribute to our success. But we do object to it—and object very strongly indeed—when it is accompanied by damaging attacks on the company for which there is not the slightest foundation, especially when conveyed by verbal statements and innuendoes which we only hear of indirectly and have no opportunity of refuting.

I trust that the information I have given you to-day may have the effect of putting an end once and for all to this underhand mode of attack, but it will in any case enable the persons to whom these statements are made to judge for themselves what credence to give to them.

No Further Capital Issues.

As regards capital issues, we have, as I have already mentioned, made an issue during the year of £2,000,000 short-term notes to enable us to pay off the loan we had from our bankers, and beyond this we do not anticipate having to make any further new issues in the near future. We are, of course, constantly incurring large fresh capital outlay, this being inevitable in connection with a concern which is expanding so largely and rapidly as ours, but, so far as we can see, we shall be able to meet this out of revenue until such time as we may find it advisable to extend our production beyond the 5,000,000 ton per annum limit for which we have so far been building up our organisation.

Production.

With regard to production, I must repeat that I have again nothing but good news to give you. In Persia we have again considerably extended the area of the proved territory in our main fields; at any point of this area we can now put down a bore with the practical certainty of tapping a prolific well, and the wells from which we have so far been obtaining our production still continue to maintain their large yields. I have heard that we have been described as a "one-well company." This is no doubt due to what I have told you from year to year about our now famous F7, which has now given a total yield of about 6,000,000 tons, and is still maintaining the same high rate of production. But this is only typical of the wells we have opened up all over our proved territory, and it has already been far surpassed by other wells—e.g., B17—situated 1¾ miles from F7, which flows at the rate of 18,000 barrels, or, roughly, 1,000,000 tons per annum. These large producing wells are, I may explain, not located in any one particular spot, but are spread all over our proved territory, and as we extend this territory, as we are constantly doing by putting down fresh wells at distances of about half a mile from each other, we continue to strike wells of the same prolific character. In order that you may be better able to follow the course of the development of our production, I will continue the table of figures which I gave you last year, viz.:—

Production in	Tons.
1918-19	1,106,415
1919-20	1,385,301
1920-21	1,743,557
1921-22	2,327,221
1922-23	2,959,028
1923-24	3,714,216

against my estimate of 3,775,000 tons, and in the current financial year it should be between 4¼ and 4½ million tons.

I may add that were we to tap all the wells already opened up we could at once bring our production up to 10,000,000 tons per annum, or more, and that by drilling in the wells which have been carried down to the cap rock we could still further largely augment our production within a few months. But it would be extremely unwise to produce at this high rate until we have ascertained more definitely the extent of our reserves, and in any case it could not be done without a corresponding increase in our pipe lines, refineries, tankers, and distributing organisations—apart from the fact that the sudden producing of this large extra quantity of oil would undoubtedly cause serious disturbance to the world's markets. Therefore, we have come to the conclusion that in this respect our soundest policy is to *festina lente*, and only to provide for this bigger production when we have satisfied ourselves, first, that we have ample reserves of oil to justify producing at this higher rate, and, second, that we can market the additional quantity at remunerative prices. As to the first point we are daily getting nearer to the position where we shall be able to increase our production materially without fear of unduly exhausting our reserves. As to the second, this is largely dependent upon the growth of the world's consumption, and the development of production in other countries.

Outside of the main fields to which I have referred, we have continued our drilling operations in several parts of Persia with a view to discovering new fields, but so far without much success, and several areas which had been favourably reported upon have had to be abandoned. On the island of Kishm, however, where we had been drilling for some years past, and which we had also decided to abandon, we met some months ago with an unexpected flow of oil when the casing was being withdrawn from one of the wells. This oil, which has been continuing to flow ever since at the rate of between 400 and 1,400 gallons daily, is of a very unusual character, being practically nothing but pure petrol and kerosene. Though we do not attach much importance to this "find" we are proceeding with our examination of the territory in the hope of being able to discover the source from which this highly infiltrated product has been derived.

The development of the new area referred to by me in the opening part of my remarks is being actively pursued with a view to proving its maximum extent and productiveness before we can safely embark upon any large scheme of pipeline or refinery development. The further developments in this area are, I am pleased to say, of a satisfactory character, and the oil produced is of an excellent grade, and there is but little doubt that in this area we have proved another valuable field.

As regards the Argentine, I am very pleased to be able to inform you that, notwithstanding my somewhat gloomy predictions of last year, we have had some much more favourable developments recently. Up to date we have produced a total of 28,000 tons of oil, and since August 15 we have produced and sold about 18,000 tons at satisfactory prices. We have a number of wells drilled which are capable of producing on a much larger scale than this, but until we can get some necessary short pipe lines laid and further tankage erected we cannot deal with the whole of the production now available. Although the lives of these wells may not be comparable with those in Persia, there is every reason for anticipating that we shall be able to produce sufficient oil in the Argentine thoroughly to justify our entry into that country.

Refineries.

As regards our refineries, the position is, as you will have seen from the report, entirely satisfactory. At Abadan the difficulties to which I referred last year have all been overcome, and the throughput since the close of the last financial year has been at the rate of over 2,800,000 tons per annum. One drawback which we have been suffering, in the detention which it causes to our vessels, is the inadequacy of the number of our loading berths at Abadan to handle the constantly expanding volume of oil. We are now handling tankers there at the rate of about 1½ vessels per day, and, in addition, we have to find accommodation for loading and unloading a large number of other vessels employed in carrying our packed oil, plant, stores, and other general cargo. To overcome the congestion which we have been recently experiencing in this direction, we are erecting, and have nearly completed, four additional jetties, besides carrying out extensive additions to the existing ones.

To assist further in accelerating the movements of our fleet, we have undertaken to provide the Iraq Government with the finance necessary to enable it to dredge the bar at the mouth of the Shatt-el-Arab. The total cost of the scheme is estimated at £450,000, and payment of interest and repayment of capital is to be covered by dues which are to be levied by the Basra Port Authority. Two powerful dredgers of the latest type and costing £250,000 have already been built for this work. One of these has already arrived at the Persian Gulf, and the other is just about to start from this country. If the scheme is successful, it will result in a very large economy in the direction of less lighterage and a three to four days quicker turn round of our tankers.

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At Llandarcy a considerably larger throughput has been dealt with, and very gratifying results have been shown both in the quality of the products obtained and in the percentages of yield, and also in the direction of reduced working costs.

At Grangemouth the refinery which was being erected by Scottish Oils, Ltd., for dealing with Persian crude, has been completed, and has for some months past been in full operation. Here also the results have been of a most gratifying character, showing in some respects, owing to the lower average temperature and other causes, an improvement even on those obtained at Llandarcy.

I may mention here that the further experience gained at these refineries more than ever confirms our anticipations in regard to the great advantages of home refining. Apart from the many other advantages which I have previously indicated, the reduction in evaporation and consequent larger yield of the lighter and more valuable products, the gain from which much exceeds our original estimates, alone more than justified us in having taken what was regarded by some of our critics as a novel and dangerous departure. Another important advantage that we gain is that, with the constant care and supervision which our research chemists are in a position to give at close quarters to our refining processes, we are able to produce motor spirit and other products of a much better and more uniform quality than is practicable when the refining is carried on in a bad climate and thousands of miles away from the countries of consumption. We can, in fact, now claim that as a result of this closer and more scientific attention to refining we produce the best and most uniform quality of spirit at present on the market.

The refinery which was being erected in Australia by our Associated company in that country—the Commonwealth Oil Refineries, Ltd.—was completed some months ago, and its products have now been introduced on the Australian markets. The company having now reached a commercial stage, we have, at the request of the Australian board, transferred to that company the services of an experienced member of our staff as managing director.

The refineries belonging to our other associated companies call for no special comment; but they are all working satisfactorily.

The Shale Industry.

As regards Scottish Oils, Ltd., I am pleased to say that the improvement in prices which took place early this year enabled the shale companies embraced in this concern to show a less unsatisfactory position at the close of their financial year than at one time appeared probable. Since then, however, the fresh fall which has taken place in market values has again adversely affected the industry, but strenuous efforts are being made in every direction to meet these unfavourable conditions.

Distributing.

To come to the last stage of our business—i.e., distributing—I am pleased to report that we are making satisfactory progress in every direction. The superior quality and unvarying character of "B.P." are getting better appreciated every day, and as time goes on we get more and more firmly established in all the markets into which we have so far made an entry, and our trade continues to show a steady increase. In the earlier part of my remarks I made a passing reference to the "rate wars" which have been waging in some of these markets in which we are established. These are, unfortunately, characteristic of the oil trade. In view of our favoured position in regard to costs, we can, however, regard them with equanimity—particularly bearing in mind that no one—no matter what the objective may be—can carry on business indefinitely at a loss. The best protection against this form of competition is, of course, to be established in as many markets as possible so that our competitors may not be able to make good in any one or more markets what they may lose in others. This is the policy we have been pursuing, and must, of course, continue to pursue.

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Relations with the Persian Government.

Our relations with the Persian Government continue, I am pleased to say, to be quite satisfactory, and there appears to be more disposition generally on the part of leading Persians to re-establish the friendly relations which subsisted for so many years between the two countries. There is at present an unfortunate dispute going on between the Central Government and the Sheikh of Mohammerah, which has led to the gathering of troops on either side, and to one or two unimportant collisions between them. But the scene of these movements is far distant from our fields and works, and we have received assurances from both sides that in any circumstances our operations and property will in no way be interfered with. We have no views in regard to the matter in dispute—nor if we had have we any right to express them, as it is purely a Governmental question—but in view of our large interest in the country, we hope that a solution of the difficulty will soon be found, and that any conflict of a serious character may thereby be averted.

Staff and Offices.

Before concluding my remarks, I will ask you to join with us in thanking the staffs of our various concerns for the unremitting keenness, loyalty, and devotion which they continue to display in the interests of the company. In this connection, I will quote from a telegram which came a few days ago from Sir John Cadman, who is now in Persia. He cables: "The condition of the oilfields is highly satisfactory. I am much impressed with the energy, capacity, and *esprit de corps* of the company's staff throughout all its operations in this country." I would like to add to this, from my knowledge, that we could not be better served than we are. Both on the technical and commercial sides of the business we have a fine set of men full of keenness and pride in the company, and it is to their unfailing energies and capacity more than anything that we owe the fine record of achievement which I have been able to put before you to-day. I am sure, therefore, that you will join heartily with me in this expression of appreciation of their services.

In London, we have, as you are aware from my previous references, for a long time past been carrying on our business under great difficulties owing to the extent to which our heads of departments and office staffs have been scattered all over the City, but I am pleased to say that we are nearly all now gathered under one roof in the new Britannic House in Finsbury Circus, and the advantages of this have already been very forcibly demonstrated. The building will be an expensive one, owing to the present high building costs and delays resulting from strikes, but the difference between the rent of our former buildings and that of the new one will, I am sure, be much more than counterbalanced by the advantages I have indicated. I now beg to move: "That the report, balance-sheet, and profit and loss account for the year ended March 31, 1924, be received, approved, and adopted."

The Government Holding.

I will ask Sir Edward Packe kindly to second the resolution. Before putting the motion to the meeting, I shall be glad to answer, as far as may lay in my power, any questions that shareholders may desire to put. I may mention that I have received from one shareholder a letter containing a number of questions, chiefly on the point of the desirability of nationalisation of the company. (Laughter.) This is a letter which should more properly have been addressed to His Majesty's Government, and I am sorry to say that I cannot lend myself to a discussion on the highly controversial questions raised by him. I would, however, like to point out to him, if he happens to be present, that we, as a Board, have, as I mentioned last year, no right whatever to express any opinion as to how the Government should dispose of their shares any more than we should have to advise him in regard to the disposal of his own shares.

Sir Edward H. Packe, K.B.E., seconded the motion.

Mr. Man.—I should like to ask whether you like the dual control?

The Chairman.—I am not in the witness-box.

Mr. Biggs inquired whether the company still held a large amount of the Scottish-American shares, and, if so, at what price they stood in the books of the company.

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Mr. Kemp, referring to the question of depreciation, said that, speaking on behalf of the Ordinary shareholders, although no doubt it had been prudent on the part of the Board to adopt a conservative policy, he thought that the dividend had been reduced to an unnecessary extent.

Mr. Morris suggested that the Board should take into consideration the question of the payment of an interim dividend, and urged that the report and accounts should be presented at an earlier date.

Reply to Questions.

The Chairman, in reply, said that they held 850,000 shares in the Scottish-American Co., and those shares stood in their books at the total value of £1. (Cheers and laughter.) As to the amount of depreciation during the last two years, he had no note of the exact figures, but from recollection he would say that they had written off during the year under review and in the previous year over £3,000,000. As to the payment of an interim dividend, this had been constantly in their mind, and they shared the desire that such a payment should be made, but as yet the directors had not thought it advisable to do so. As to the distributing companies, the Board was in constant touch with the British Petroleum Co., they had every confidence in the administration of that company, and he might add that the sales of the companies were not going down, but were constantly on the increase.

The resolution for the adoption of the report and the accounts was carried unanimously.

The Chairman moved:—"That a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less income-tax on the Ordinary shares of the company, be declared in respect of the year ended March 31, 1924, and that such dividend be paid on December 31, 1924."

Sir Edward H. Packe seconded the resolution, which was carried.

The Chairman proposed and Admiral Sir E. J. W. Slade, K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., seconded the following resolution:—"That Sir H. S. Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., Sir J. T. Cargill, Bt., Messrs. H. B. Heath Eves, F. W. Lund, and J. D. Stewart be and are hereby re-elected to the Board."

The resolution was unanimously approved.

Messrs. Brown, Fleming, and Murray, the auditors, having been reappointed,

Vote of Thanks.

Mr. Thomas F. Dalglish moved a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff for their excellent services rendered during the past year. They had had from the chairman a most informative and lucid record of the company's affairs which enabled the shareholders to realise, to some extent, the enormous scope of the company's activities, revealing at the same time the great care which was shown in the administration of the concern. (Cheers.) There was only one matter to which he would like to make reference, and it was this, that he thought the shareholders could congratulate themselves on the refusal of the British Government to sell its shares in the company. (Cheers.) They, as shareholders, were thus assured that the company would remain under the British Flag and that it would be conducted purely as a British enterprise.

The resolution was carried with acclamation.

The Chairman, in reply, said:—I have to thank Mr Dalglish, on behalf of the Board and the other officers of the company, for his very appreciative remarks about the company, and you, ladies and gentlemen, for the kind reception you gave to this vote of thanks.

As I said before, we as a board have no concern in the matter of the Government shares, but we all feel intense pride in the company—a feeling which will, I am sure, be more and more justified as time goes on and as the company approaches more nearly to its full development. We are at present still only in the growing stage, but we are now well past the period of childhood, when life is uncertain, and have arrived at that period of vigorous youth which gives certain promise of a sturdy manhood. I therefore look forward with confidence to the future, and again thank you for your kind appreciation of our services.

The proceedings then terminated.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-⅝
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	258-260
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	318-322
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	23.94-23.96
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.6 3/32-1.6 5/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	95.25-96.35
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	890-900
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	340-350,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.6 3/32-1.6 5/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	830-845
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.63-4.63⅛
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	87.30-87.40
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	153½-153¾
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	106.70-106.80
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	630-640
Teheran	Krans to £	50	39½
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	327-330,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	23.95-24.15

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, December 6). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mandasor for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 13).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 3).

British India Line.—S.s. Mirzapore for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 6); s.s. Mashobra for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 6).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Christiania for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 9).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Dido for Gibraltar, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, December 3).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 6); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 27).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London, November 29); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 13).

Mr. Charles J. Hambro has accepted a seat on the Board of the Mercantile Bank of India.

The production of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Company for October was 20,773 tons, and the throughput of the refineries was 25,632 tons.

The Bank of British West Africa has declared an interim dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable December 1.

It is stated that the locust bean crop in Cyprus has exceeded all expectations, and is estimated at a little over 60,000 tons. The greater part will be shipped to the United Kingdom, and about 8,000 tons to Barcelona.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended October 25 amounted to Rs.10,13,405.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the eleven days ended October 31 amounted to £E17,207, making the total from April 1, £E189,208.

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Passenger sailing dates:—

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*Castalia, Dec. 16.	*Circassia, Feb. 27.
*Scindia, Jan. 16.	*Olympia, Mar. 13.
*Massilia, Jan. 30.	*Castalia, Apr. 1.

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CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - - £390,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches in Persia:—
Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdah
Chief Office, TEHERAN.
Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah
Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan)
Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - £5,013,834

HEAD OFFICE:
Basildon House, Moorgate, LONDON.

GREECE.
Central Office:
ATHENS.
14 Branches.

EGYPT.
Central Office:
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Local Head Offices:—
CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, MADRAS

Managing Governors in India:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London:—
S. A. H. SITWELL, Esq.

Authorised Capital - - Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - - Rs. 5.62.50.000
Reserve - - - - - - Rs. 4.57.50.000

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... ... £4,000,000 | Paid-up Capital £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... ... £4,000,000 | Reserve Fund £2,750,000

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

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The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
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CAPITAL PAID UP - Drs. 30,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 29,266,341.40

The assets include securities worth £1,000,000, which are valued at Drs. 25,000,000; that is, at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

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Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larrissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea, Zante, Plomari, Tripolitza.

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The Bank conducts every kind of Banking and Stock Exchange business, and extends special facilities to merchants and traders interested in business with Greece. It acts as Agent for many Foreign Banks. It is specially organised for Exchange transactions, the execution of mail and cable transfers throughout Greece, and for the collection of clean and documentary Drafts and Bills.

MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT.

The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

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ESTABLISHED 1893

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INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £3,900,000.

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COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
SIR ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
SIR WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, K.B.E.
THE RIGHT HON. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I.
THE RIGHT HON. SIR JOHN NEWELL JORDAN, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., [K.C.B.
WM. FOOT MITCHELL, Esq., M.P.
LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, Esq.
JAMES MAXWELL GRANT PROPHIT, Esq.

Chief Manager—W. E. PRESTON.

Managers—J. S. BRUCE and G. MILLER.

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AMRITSAR	HAIPHONG	MADRAS	SHANGHAI
BANGKOK	HAMBURG	MANILA	SINGAPORE
BATAVIA	HANKOW	MEDAN	SOURABAYA
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	NEW YORK	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PEKING	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
CANTON	IPOH	PENANG	TIENTSIN
CAWNPORE	KARACHI	PUKET	TOKYO
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COLOMBO	KOBE	SAIGON	ZAMBOANGA
	KUALA LUMPUR	SEMARANG (Java)	(PhilippineIslands)

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The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

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Head Office: 2 & 3, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £340,000

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

Board of Directors:

J. S. HASKELL, Esq. (*Chairman*).
SIR JAMES LEIGH-WOOD, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G. (*Deputy Chairman*).
G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
J. H. BATTY, Esq. EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq.
SIR PERCY WILSON NEWSON, Bt.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

Deposits are received for 1 year and for shorter periods at rates which can be ascertained on application, and Current Accounts are opened by the Bank in London and at its Branches.

F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED

Head Office: LONDON.

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Nazareth.
MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta, Gibraltar.

Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000
Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000
Reserve - - - - - - - £720,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - - - - - £3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - £2,325,000

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CALEDONIA	8,000	Nov. 28	Dec. 5	Bombay & Karachi
*MOREA	11,000	Dec. 5	Dec. 12	Straits, China Japan
NARK'NDA	16,000	Dec. 12	Dec. 19	Bombay & Karachi
†NANKIN	7,000	Dec. 13	—	Colombo & Calcutta
†KASHMIR	9,001	Dec. 19	—	Straits, China, Japan
*MOOLTAN	21,000	Dec. 19	Dec. 26	Colombo & Australia
NALDERA	16,000	Dec. 26	Jan. 2	Bombay & Karachi

* Taking passengers for Bombay, via Aden. † Calling at Malta.

BRITISH INDIA SAILINGS.
(Under Contract with the Govts. of India and Queensland.)

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‡§MIRZAP'RE	6,715	—	Dec. 6	Bombay & Karachi
¶MASHOBRA	8,288	—	Dec. 6	Madras & Calcutta
§NARINGA	6,607	Dec. 2	Dec 20	Bombay & Karachi
†MANORA	7,888	Dec. 6	Dec. 20	Madras & Calcutta
§TREGENNA	5,242	Dec. 13	Dec. 24	East African Ports
WANG'RATTA	7,897	—	Jan. —	Queensland Ports
¶‡MORVADA	8,193	Dec. 13	Jan. 2	Bombay & Karachi
†MANTOLA	8,963	Dec. 20	Jan. 3	Madras & Calcutta

Ships marked § will not take passengers. ¶ Calls Malta.
‡ Calls Port Sudan.
† Leaving Antwerp one week after Middlesbrough date.

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*City of Canterbury	8,401	Dec. 6	Bombay and Karachi
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DEC 30 1924

THE NEAR EAST

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No. 708—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Smoother Waters in Egypt.

In Egypt, after the anxious feelings raised by the presentation by Lord Allenby, on November 23, of the British demands, and by the occupation of the Custom House at Alexandria on November 24, a period of comparative calm seems happily to be ensuing. The British Government appear to wish, very wisely, to give to the new Ziwar Administration breathing space, and it was a particularly able decision on their part to send out to Cairo Mr. Nevile Henderson, whose handling of the very difficult situation at Constantinople when Sir Horace Rumbold was away at Lausanne will be fresh in the minds of all. This appointment signifies, as it were, the lifting of the affair from a military to a political plane, and one may reasonably hope that the position is now in a way of being regularised. The new Egyptian Government has accepted the British demands, and has certainly, in so far as was possible, acted alike with dignity and with wisdom. The resignation of the Ministers of Education and of Public Works, however, shows how difficult must be its task in fulfilling the demands which Zaghloul Pasha, with his mandate from the Egyptian nation, rejected. It is profoundly to be hoped that before the next meeting of the Chamber of Deputies at Cairo a policy realisable both by the British and by the Egyptians will have been laid down.

The Egyptian Arrests.

It is good that the native courts in Cairo have declared, concerning those arrests of extremely dangerous Nationalists which the British authorities felt themselves obliged to make, in favour of the legality of the proceeding. These arrests were in practically all competent quarters heartily approved and applauded. The bit having been taken between the teeth, so to speak, it would, it was argued, be the wildest folly to allow poison flies to sting the beast. In other words, they were both necessary and salutary. For the moment the seas in Cairo, in Alexandria, and in all the other centres which possess Europeans are calm enough, but it would be rash to assume that there are no breakers ahead. It has been supposed that we are now back to the position of 1922, with, however, the four reserved points more clearly reserved than hitherto. But how far that supposition is correct will depend on the fate of the Ziwar Cabinet when the Egyptian Assembly meets. Everything depends on the continuance of the wise pulling of the wires that actuate the new Egyptian Government, and there is, fortunately, reason to anticipate that tempered determination will guide the steps of the British Government in the direction of political, as apart from military, feasibility.

The Sudan Mutiny.

Only those—too large a number, we regret to say—who were ignorant of the activities during the past twelve months or so of Egyptian Nationalists in the Sudan could have been surprised at the mutiny of two platoons of Sudanese infantry which took place on November 27. If this revolt proves anything, it proves, not that British administration in the Sudan is unpopular, but that the Nationalist intrigues should have been nipped in the bud much sooner. To this handful of mutinous Sudanese it was, we believe, represented by mischievous agents that the Sudan would shortly become Egyptian, and one need only remind oneself of the effect which similar arguments had at times upon the Kurds of Iraq to imagine the effect on a certain type of mind. The wonder is, indeed, that the mutineers were not greater in numbers, so lavish were the promises made to them. At the moment the situation is well in hand, and there need be no fear or alarm even if sporadic outbreaks should occur at places other than Khartoum. In no place more than in the present Sudan is firmness more closely allied to justice, and there can be no conceivable doubt that the British cause there will triumph.

A New Party in Croatia.

After months and months of pursuance in an impossible policy of non-co-operation, the Croats, like the Arabs in Palestine, are looking to themselves for deliverance from their leaders. It is difficult to discover exactly how far the revolt from the futility of M. Raditch has yet gone, but the significant thing is that it has really started. M. Lovrekovitch and some other dissidents—fourteen and thirty are

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variously reported—have formed a Croatian National Party. In his manifesto M. Lovrekovitch proclaims a desire for national unity, recognises the Monarchy, and condemns the relations of M. Raditch with the Bolshevists of Moscow. If this new party succeeds in obtaining any considerable following in Croatia, the signs for Yugoslavia are brighter than they have been for a long time. Patently, M. Lovrekovitch is a man whom it is possible to work with, and he has already declared that two of his adherents, MM. Drincovitch and Shurmin, will represent the party in the Pashitch Cabinet.

Britain and Turkey.

At the meeting of the Angora Assembly on November 27, Fethi Bey, the new Prime Minister of Turkey, said—and we believe him—that the question of the Iraq boundary was the sole obstacle in the way of a renewal of the traditional friendship between Britain and Turkey. That realisation of this fact is dawning upon the Turkish Republic is one of the most hopeful signs that Anatolia has produced for some time. The times are, in fact, auspicious for Turkey. She has just accomplished a very wise change of Government without any apparent hitch, and if Fethi Bey can secure the services of a sufficient number of men as open-minded as he is himself, the railway construction, the development of agriculture, and all the other things which he put in the forefront of his programme may gradually come about. There are certain signs that the Turkish Republic is slowly adjusting its outlook and conduct in an endeavour to attain to more harmonious co-operation with the Western Powers with whom it will in the future have mainly to deal. Particularly, there is in the speeches of Fethi Bey a business-like quality, the quality at once of firmness and of compromise. More detailed appreciation of the new Government at Angora must be withheld until it is known what, for instance, are the securities that are to be given to foreign capital, but, generally speaking, British opinion will wish well to the Administration of Fethi Bey.

The French Command in Syria.

We cannot let the occasion of General Weygand's resignation from the High Commissionership of Syria pass without lauding the results of his work in general and, in particular, of his unceasing efforts to gain real co-operation in those countries which made up the pre-War Syria. General Weygand deserves well alike of the French, of the British, and of the Syrians. It is to be hoped that the policy of collaboration which he has succeeded in getting on a running basis will be pursued and brought to perfection by his successor, General Sarrail, whose name is familiar in this country, chiefly owing to his having commanded the Salonika Army. There is significance to be found in the fact that one of the last acts of General Weygand as High Commissioner of Syria will have been the expression, as found elsewhere in this issue, of obviously sincere sentiments concerning the co-operation of Syria with Palestine.

A Fracas in Palestine.

The dispute between Arabs and Jews which arose at Afuleh on November 28 may or may not have been political in origin, but the facts that it broke out and that blood was spilled are in themselves sufficient to draw attention to the suspicion with which the Arabs still regard the Zionist organisation. Governmental sanctioning of land purchased by the Zionist Organisation was one of the points incorporated in the protest which the Arab Executive recently made to the League of Nations, so that it appears as if this Executive, in spite of the rise of rival Arab bodies which are keener than it to find an immediate *modus vivendi*, still has considerably more power in the Holy Land than some critics have been disposed to allow. Obviously, there is still little room for complacency or self-satisfaction in the matter of the execution of our Zionist policy.

INDIA.

The All-Party Conference.

The result of the All-Party Conference, the latest step towards the fashionable ideal of Indian unity, is not very impressive, for unity was not achieved, though a committee was appointed to look for it. The terms of the reference to this body are sufficiently wide, covering the reunion of all political elements, the preparation of one more Constitution for the country, and, incidentally, the solution of the religious difficulties between Hindus and Moslems. The time allowed to the committee is certainly not excessive for tasks of such magnitude, but the practical point is that it leaves matters in suspense until the conclusion of the next Budget session, or, shall we say, to the Indian kalends, for April usually gives a fresh shake to the kaleidoscope of politics. It is pleasant to read of Mrs. Besant's courageous stand on the motion condemning the action taken against the Bengal anarchists, but she found very few supporters in the division, and the line taken by the Conference as a whole is that on which we commented last week, facts and probabilities ignored, figments of the imagination treated as realities, and a chorus of cloud-cuckoos which is at once ridiculous and depressing.

The Pathway to Unity.

Unity Conferences have been so frequent of late that it may be worth while to recall their story in a few words. First came the Hindu-Moslem Conference. It solved, on paper, the religious difficulties between the two communities, and its obituary is recorded in the fact that the same difficulties have now been referred to the new committee. Next came the Extremists' Conference. It achieved unity within the party in so far that the practical politicians swallowed the saints and highbrows whole, but the tale of Jonah stands as a warning that unity of that kind is not necessarily permanent. Now we have the All-Party Conference, which may, or may not, result in the absorption by the Extremists of those Liberal leaders who failed to keep their party together, and consequently are at present in the air. To complete the story, there ought now to be a conference between Brahmins and outcasts in order to close the widest and deepest fissure of all, but we cannot find anything to show that this question has been taken up. The practical difficulties would be rather serious, seeing that orthodox Brahmins could not sit in the same room as outcasts, but they are not insuperable in these days of telephones, and it is high time that the political pundits should turn their attention to the evil which, more than any other single cause, retards the growth of a united nation.

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How Indians treat Indians.

Those politicians who are so fond of insisting on the indignities inflicted on Indians abroad might study with advantage a document printed in the last number of the Bombay *Labour Gazette*, which throws a lurid light on the treatment of Indians by Indians. It is a complaint by the Labour Office of the Dutch East Indies against the inhuman treatment of the salesmen and servants brought out to Java and Sumatra by Indian firms of shopkeepers. A specimen contract which is appended to the letter shows that the arrangement between master and servant is as nearly as possible a contract of slavery for a term of years, the servant being boarded and lodged, but receiving no wages for himself until he has completed his term to his master's satisfaction, and being placed entirely in his master's power. There is something piquant in the fact that the protest should emanate from the Dutch-Asiatic administration, for, to the historian at least, it is only a short time since the Dutch dominated the export trade in Indian slaves to these regions. The Dutch have moved since those days, but apparently Indian masters have not, and while indentured emigration under proper safeguards is anathema to the politicians, they seem hitherto to have overlooked this system of indentured slavery without any safeguards whatever. Possibly the reason is that the system is purely Indian.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Cairo and Khartum.

Events in Egypt and the Sudan have been followed anxiously during the past week. It is felt that the Government took the only possible course, but it is felt, too, that the troubles may not yet be over, and that the whole situation will want careful handling for a long time to come.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, in a speech in the country last week, suggested that the matter should have been handled by the League of Nations. This is becoming a favourite oratorical device for Opposition speakers—"when in doubt recommend the League of Nations"—but Mr. MacDonald himself, as the late head of the Government, must realise that advice of that kind has little meaning. An Empire cannot shuffle its responsibilities on to Geneva in that fashion: nor could Geneva settle them.

Parliament.

When Parliament meets in a few days' time there will have to be a debate on foreign and Imperial affairs. The Government will state its position, but the Opposition is not likely to oppose very strongly. Labour is, of course, technically committed to the Russian Treaty, but there is hardly a Labour man who does not realise that that Treaty was dead before the dissolution, and that the present Government have buried it rather than killed it. As to the Zinovieff Letter, that is not strategically very strong ground for Mr. MacDonald and his late Cabinet, who were all at sixes and sevens over it.

The other business of the session, which will be a short one, is largely formal, and the only Bill of any public interest is that for appointing two new judges.

"Mr. A."

The most famous man in the world last week was the man whom it was forbidden to mention—the notorious "Mr. A.," whose two cheques for £150,000 each were debated before Lord Darling and a jury, the rest of the population of the British Isles apparently being in the queue that stretched outside the Law Courts every morning until the doors were open.

Although the civil case has been concluded, a criminal case has arisen out of it, and it is therefore impossible to comment on the trial. The evidence was astonishing, and far more amazing than anything I have read in the way of sensational fiction, which must at least have some probability—whereas the proceedings in the present case seemed to have none whatever that I could see, and except for the indubitable evidence of documents and witnesses one simply could not have believed them.

Some comment has been made on the policy of keeping the name of "Mr. A." secret. Lord Darling, the judge, made it clear that he had permitted this to be done, not because "Mr. A." was a rich man, but on account of reasons of State, "Mr. A." being an Eastern potentate. It is said that the actual name once slipped out inadvertently from one of the witnesses in court, but no newspaper has reported it. All the same, the thing is an open secret: matters of this kind simply cannot be kept under lock and key in these days—if ever they were, which is doubtful.

The Ring in Marriage.

In the renewed discussion on the revision of the Prayer Book, which is generally a very decorous debate concerned with nice grammatical or doctrinal points, women have suddenly begun to take an interest. The reason is obvious. It was the turn of the marriage service to be overhauled, and some excellent person, in the interests of equity, suggested that, instead of the man giving the woman the ring, there should be two rings, and the two parties should exchange them.

The jewellery trade, I believe, was unanimously in favour of the proposal, not altogether for symbolic reasons. Some of the feminists rather liked the idea of labelling men at sight—until they reflected that there was no means of compelling a man to wear the wedding ring after the ceremony; while other feminists are inclined to think that the ring should be abolished—or is it marriage that should be abolished?—but the clergy avoided these dangerous waters. In the end it was decided to leave things as they are.

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The Communion Service.

A more important, and perhaps more critical, point was raised when a very numerously signed petition was presented to the Archbishop of Canterbury against certain alterations in the Communion Service. This protest disclosed a rather unexpected strength in the evangelical movement, and I imagine that it has impressed even those who are convinced that the Anglo-Catholic revision upwards is right that the Low Churchmen are more powerful than had been generally supposed.

The Archbishop, of course, made no definite pronouncement on the subject, and the matter is likely to be postponed for some time. But so far as I understand the problem at issue—and I have taken pains to get statements of the position from moderate and reasonable men on both sides—the two views are irreconcilable, and it will be difficult to discover a point of compromise on what seems to be a fundamental difference of doctrine.

Signs of Christmas.

There are already indications of Christmas in the offing. The popular magazines, of course, all published their Christmas numbers some weeks ago, and the bookstalls are still groaning under the avoirdupois of alleged jokes and improbable ghost stories; the shops are filling with useless presents, and one's tobacconist has boxes of suspicious cigars prominently displayed on the counter. These things are symptomatic; but in passing through Covent Garden last week I saw the first consignment of Christmas trees—quite miniature affairs, suitable for tiny children in tiny flats. In these days of high rents we live on a miniature scale, and even the Christmas tree is little more than a clothes-line for a few bonbons. But the housekeeper, at least, is happy; for while the cost of living is rising, for some mysterious reason the cost of Christmas pudding, and other formidable luxuries of the approaching festivities, is falling. I cannot quite understand it, but the turkey, that extraordinary bird which formerly only woke up once a year in order to be killed, now appears on the menus of most restaurants and clubs from September onwards, and remains on the lists until March. The decline of the pheasant seems to have made for an increase of turkeys; whether the bird in question appreciates this sudden popularity is another matter.

Medical Etiquette.

A well-known doctor, and a specialist of some repute, has been struck off the medical register for the mortal sin—of having written a single article in a newspaper. According to medical etiquette, this is "infamous conduct," which must be punished by professional ostracism and ruin. Every trade union, of course, must have its rules and its penalties, and I can quite understand that doctors have to take steps against the fraternity's advertising itself individually, and it may be speciously argued that to write an article savours of personal advertisement. All that is admitted, but at the same time the penalty seems rather excessive for the crime of putting pen to paper and making a single visit to Fleet Street. For some reason which I do not quite understand, parsons and barristers are allowed by their superiors to write for the papers, but doctors can only express themselves anonymously.

New Zealand Football.

The All-Blacks continue their conquering career, and Welsh as well as English clubs have now bitten the dust. Curiously enough, nobody seems quite able to explain exactly in what their superiority consists; but of the superiority itself there is no longer any doubt.

On the other hand, in these days when English sport is at a low ebb competitively, it is something to be proud of that the present M.C.C. team in Australia is giving a better account of itself than did its predecessors. But as no Test Matches have been played as yet on the present tour, it is early days to boast of the revival of English cricket.

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IRAQ FRONTIER COMMISSION.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, on November 25 received at the Foreign Office M. C. E. T. de Wirsen, Count Paul Teleki, and Colonel Paulis, the League of Nations Commission on the Iraq boundary question. The following day Mr. Chamberlain presided over a luncheon given by the British Government at the Ritz Hotel in honour of the Commission. Others present included Viscount Peel, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P., Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, Sir Wm. G. Tyrrell, Sir John E. Shuckburgh, Major H. W. Young, Mr. Walford H. M. Selby, and Mr. E. E. Beare, Secretary, Government Hospitality. The Commission left London last Sunday for Angora to consult with the Turkish authorities.

The *Morning Post* Belgrade correspondent states that the next Conference of the Little Entente will not be held in that city, as announced, but at Bucharest. The main subject for discussion is the Russian question, after which the attitude of the Little Entente towards Italy and Bulgaria will be considered.

Lord and Lady Jellicoe arrived last week at Sydney on their way home from New Zealand. Lord Jellicoe states that he may stay a month in Egypt, before going on to London.

Es Sayed Taleb en-Naqib, the Hashimite representative in Cairo, sailed for Jeddah on November 28 to confer with King Ali of the Hejaz about the Moslem Conference which is to be held in the Hejaz.

Ahmed Pasha Ziwar, the new Prime Minister of Egypt, held Ministerial office in the Cabinets of Said Pasha, Wabha Pasha, Nessim Pasha, and Adly Pasha. In 1923 he was appointed Minister in Rome, whence he returned last February, on his election as President of the Senate. During the War he was for a time Governor of Alexandria. Ziwar Pasha, who is sixty years old, is of Turkish extraction.

The Greek Assembly on November 29 suspended its sitting for ten minutes as a token of respect to Joannes Sphakianakes, the famous Cretan leader, who has just died. M. Sphakianakes, after participating in the Cretan insurrection of 1886, became President of the Cretan Assembly in 1897, conducted negotiations with the Admirals of the Powers in 1898, and presided over the Commission for compiling the Cretan Constitution. He then retired from politics and joined the directorate of the Cretan Bank, only emerging to support M. Venizelos against Prince George in 1905.

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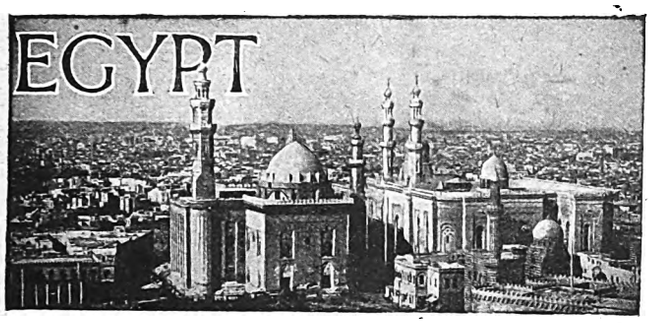
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, November 22.

The Murder of the Sirdar.

I had intended to devote this letter to the question of the resignation of Zaghloul Pasha, which occurred just as I closed my last week's letter. It was altogether a most illuminating incident, which promised further interesting developments in the near future. The events that have supervened, however, put that incident completely into the background, and neither the general public nor the principal actors in what was after all nothing but a comedy think any more about it.

The outrage on the Sirdar sent a wave of horror and indignation through the European communities and the more instructed Egyptians, particularly when the deliberate nature of the attack and the brutal conversion of the bullets into dumdum became known. Sir Lee Stack was indeed the last man to merit such an act on the part of the Egyptians. He was gentleness and kindness personified. All who have served with him, be they British or Egyptians, had a deep affection and esteem for him, and the measure of the place he had won for himself was afforded us by the sight of the sincere concern and sorrow shown when the news of the outrage was known and subsequently at the funeral by the many Egyptian Army officers who had served with and under him.

The outrage was committed undoubtedly because Sir Lee Stack was Governor-General of the Sudan, and in the circumstances whoever may prove to be the direct culprits the gravest responsibility rests with Zaghloul Pasha and his colleagues. No one who has followed the development in the situation during the past eight months can have any doubt upon that. The whole Sudan agitation was deliberately encouraged in as many words by Zaghloul Pasha himself in Parliament. He and his colleagues knew what was going on in the committee rooms of the Chamber of Deputies, and how Egyptians on leave in Cairo were being primed with anti-British propaganda, and he it was who endeavoured to cast discredit on Sir Lee Stack and his British subordinates of the Egyptian Army by declaring with all the publicity, and incidentally with all the privilege, that Parliament gave him that it was an indignity for Egypt to have British officers in her Army.

Further, when the incidents created by the Egyptian Railway Battalion and Egyptian officials occurred in the Sudan, and coercive measures had to be adopted for the maintenance of public peace, the Council of Ministers took upon itself to publish a *communiqué* which they knew to be a lie, and the incitative effect of which on the public mind in Egypt they, above all people, could not ignore. And, when given the opportunity by the representative of a leading British paper to withdraw gracefully from their terrible blunder and so prevent the aggravation of the situation which was to be anticipated therefrom, they preferred to persist in their attitude, and instead handed him a statement which merely served to convict them out of their own mouths of intentional *suppressio veri* and *suggestio falsi*.

As if all this was not sufficient to encourage ideas of violence, one has the fact that Zaghloul Pasha has appointed to the staff of Parliament men who have been convicted of attempted assassination of high Egyptian personages. He has favoured the candidature for Parliament and the nomination to the leadership of the Labour movement of the man who was sentenced to be hanged in 1920 for having organised a society for the assassination of British officials and members of the British Army; while his more recent appointments have been made from men who have been implicated in criminal investigations. To crown all, during the crisis caused by his resignation, his Cabinet issued orders that the demonstrations were in no circumstances to be interfered with, but that they were to be allowed to shout the revolutionary cries, which had been taught to them, even under the windows of the Palace. The indictment is long and serious, the responsibility of Zaghloul Pasha and his colleagues of both the Wafd and the Cabinet unescapable.

The Funeral.

The funeral of Sir Lee Stack was one of the most imposing and impressive ceremonies—indeed, one would not be exaggerating if one said the most imposing and impressive ceremony—that Egypt has ever witnessed. The unanimity of feeling among the foreign communities was strikingly emphasised by the manner in which they participated in the sorrow and indignation of the British community. Even those who could not actively join in the funeral itself testified to their sympathy either by flying flags at half mast, lighting funereal lamps, or closing their establishments. There could be no doubt as to what the foreign

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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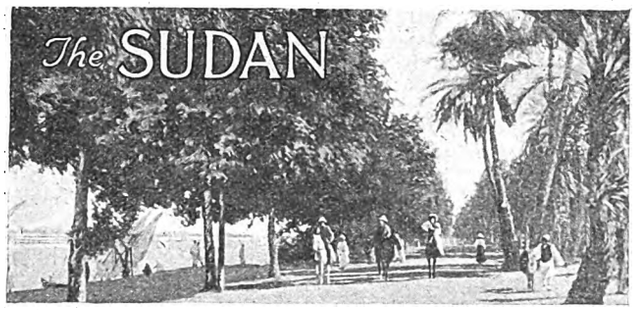
communities thought of the crime and whom they held morally for it.

Lord Allenby's Note.

In the circumstances it is not surprising to find that the British Note which Lord Allenby handed Zaghloul Pasha yesterday has met with the universal approval of the foreign communities. They, in common with the British colony, had feared from certain comments from London published here that the British Government might once again fail to strike, and they are relieved to find that it has decided to set a term once and for all to a situation which has been rapidly becoming intolerable for all non-Egyptians resident in this country and, indeed, for many Egyptians. Parliament late last night voted complete confidence in Zaghloul Pasha and his Cabinet, and left to him the task of replying as he thought fit.



Khartoum, November 21.

Civilian Cadets Sentenced.

An echo of the Military School demonstration of August 9 was heard during the fortnight under review, when the Civil Court Judge sentenced the remaining Civilian Cadets, numbering twenty-eight, to eight years' imprisonment each. Such a severe sentence may have been given in order to give these youths a very severe shock.

It must be remembered, however, that these cadets, when taking part in the demonstration, carried arms and ammunition and openly threatened to shoot any Englishman who attempted to oppose their plans. In this connection it is interesting to record a little incident which occurred and which is not generally known. Colonel MacCowan, a Lewa in the Egyptian Army, on being informed of the concerted movement, approached the party of some sixty cadets. They threatened him with death, and brought their rifles to the ready position, should he ignore their order. Colonel MacCowan thereupon put his hands in his pockets and, whistling a happy refrain, sauntered quietly through the ranks, and not one cadet attempted to bar his progress. He then talked to them for a while, and soothed their somewhat excited feelings. It was undoubtedly because of this fearless and audacious action that an ugly situation was averted, and the cadets were persuaded to march quietly back to barracks, where they handed in their arms.

It was anticipated that the award of such terms of imprisonment would have caused certain disorders among the extremist party of the three towns, and the police were therefore strengthened and stood in readiness for twenty-four hours. Three aeroplanes also operated overhead during the morning, flying very low, and, like hawks, were prepared to swoop down upon the demonstrators should such assistance be required. Fortunately, neither police nor planes were requisitioned as all areas remained quiet.

Mohammed Amin Bey Shahid.

I referred in my last letter to the activities of this Egyptian advocate. Subsequent news received in Khartoum shows a remarkable change in the Egyptian Arabic Press. From an attitude of extreme praise it has wheeled round to one of trenchant criticism of his actions. It does not now give credence to the story that he was expelled from Khartoum, but believes that he left on his own accord, for, as one of the leading papers remarked: "The Sudan Government had expelled a number of Egyptians, and, although criticised severely, they had never denied the act of expulsion, but in the particular instance of Shahid Bey they issued an official denial of the story that he had been forced by the Government to leave the country. Such a denial is appreciated—and believed." Another leading journal says that the only thing that Shahid Bey can do to clear his name is to *endeavour* to return to the Sudan. This, of course, he will not do, as such an act would at once condemn him, for no one in the Sudan would oppose his return.

Police Magistrate's Inquiry.

The Police Magisterial Inquiry into the case of forty-one prisoners arrested during the past few months in connection with the anti-Government and pro-Egyptian movement has ended. The magistrate said that the case presented by the prosecution has been proved and the prisoners have been formally charged and committed for trial by a Mudir's Court. This charge is an unique one in the annals of the Sudan, and is reproduced below. It will be noticed that the notorious agitator and so-called "Martyr" Ali Abdel Latif is among those charged. All of them were ringleaders in the pro-Egyptian movement and were either members or influential abettors of the White Flag Society. The date of the Mudir's Court has not yet been fixed.

By the Police Magistrate:—

I, F. F. Hamilton-Grierson, hereby charge you—all the accused as shown in front of proceedings as follows:—

I. That you on or about the months of February to September, 1924, in the Sudan conspired to overawe the Government by means of criminal force or the show of criminal force, in that having excited or attempted to excite feelings of disaffection to the Government established by law in the Sudan, or abetted such offence, you made preparation for processions, demonstrations, and assemblies by bodies of persons, which anticipated the use of force by the Government for the suppression of disorder. And that you contemplated the use of force in the execution of such purpose, and that you by the acts which you performed or the per-

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formance of which you abetted, caused the Government to take measures which it would not otherwise have taken in the apprehension that such acts would cause injury, fear, or annoyance to the Government and the inhabitants of the Sudan or some section or part thereof, and that you caused or abetted the causing of disturbances of the public peace which occurred during said period in Khartoum and elsewhere in the Sudan, in the course of which injury, fear, and annoyance was in fact caused to the Government and inhabitants of the Sudan, and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 94 of the Sudan Penal Code and within the cognisance of a Mudir's Court:

II. ALTERNATIVE:—

That you (all accused) about same time and place conspired to promote the demonstrations and unlawful assemblies by more than ten persons which occurred during said period in Khartoum and elsewhere in the Sudan, or one or more of them, knowing that such demonstrations and unlawful assemblies were forbidden by law and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 90 of the Sudan Penal Code:

III. That you (all accused) about same time and place by words spoken or intended to be read, or otherwise, excited or attempted to excite feelings of disaffection to the Government established by law in the Sudan, and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 96 of the Sudan Penal Code; or about same time and place abetted the above offences and thereby committed an offence under Sections 82 and 92 of the Sudan Penal Code:

IV. That you:—

Ali Abdel Latif, Salih Abdel Gadir, Ebeid Hag el Amin, Hassan Sherif, Hassan Saleh, Ahmed Mudassir Ibrahim, Tuhami Mohammed Osman, Mohammed Sirr el Khatm, Mohammed el Mahdi, Mohammed Idris, Moh. Abdel Mekhit, Abdullah Nur, Nur ol Din Farag, Sheikh Omar Dafallah, Izzeddin Rasikh, about the same time and place were in possession of, or had made or manufactured, books or documents tending to bring into hatred and contempt the Government and Constitution of the Sudan as by law established, or which tended to raise discontent or disaffection among the inhabitants of the Sudan, or to promote feelings of illwill and hostility between different classes of such inhabitants, and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 1 Contraband Goods Ordinance, 1901—(Order of 1920—Gazette at page 1329.)

I direct you to be tried on above charges by a Mudir's Court.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, November 17.

Parliamentary Discussions.

Interesting debates, to which public opinion cannot remain indifferent, are taking place in Parliament. They have been brought about by interpellations on the part sometimes of the majority and sometimes of the Opposition on the subject of some serious frauds which the Government has delayed bringing before the Courts, thus creating a regrettable impression throughout the country. The main facts are already of common knowledge in connection with the organisation which, under the auspices of the Under-Secretary of State for the Interior, issued a large number of illegal passports for America. After the discovery of this semi-official traffic, when the Government had been obliged to place the matter in the hands of Justice, the suicide of the brother of the Minister of Communications gave the matter a wide publicity, and violent comments were published in the Press.

A series of discussions on the misapplication of the funds of the Roumanian State Railways, to the extent, according to the Opposition, of one milliard lei, must also have been extremely unpleasant to the responsible members of the Government.

Anti-Semitism.

Besides these troubles, the Anti-Semitic agitation, encouraged, apparently, by the tolerant attitude of the Government, reappeared in a new form with the attempt by a student on the life of the Prefect of Jessy. Owing to the passions aroused in Roumania by differences of confession, this affair made a considerable stir.

The Government's Position.

Nevertheless, there seems no reason to believe that the Government will feel obliged to resign on any of the above grounds. The composition of Parliament assures to the Government an unquestionable majority, and the Prime Minister, in spite of the animated debates taking place in the Chamber, did not see fit to attend in person, but delegated in his place an Under-Secretary of State, who was not even able to make himself heard. This persistent attitude of M. Ionel Bratiano towards the Parliament provokes bitter criticism from those who adhere to the principles of Parliamentarianism.

Meanwhile, the Opposition proclaims that the last hour of the Liberal Government is about to strike, and that the Government, conscious of this fact, is only seeking a favourable successor and an honourable pretext for retiring. It is suggested that the renewal of the privilege of the Banca Nationala would afford this pretext, but one is inclined to think that there is a sufficient number of points of disagreement to allow of a choice being made at any convenient moment—probably when the Opposition least expect it.

Such a defeat might well be brought about by the failure of the Liberal programme, which was sketched in broad lines at the time of their coming into power, and included the re-establishment of the currency and of the finances of the country, the reconstruction of the railways, and the raising of Roumanian credit abroad. But there can be little doubt that in all these directions the situation has gone from bad to worse during their rule, with the exception of the railway traffic, which, in spite of the frauds above mentioned, is gradually taking on a more normal aspect.

It has been suggested that, in view of its apparent inability to settle these questions satisfactorily, the Liberal Government would do well to quit the field before it is entirely discredited in the eyes of the public, thus retaining for itself an honourable position in the Opposition. It will be interesting to see whether the Opposition will give the Liberals an opportunity of doing this. In the course of the meetings of the various parties violent attacks have, indeed, been made upon the Government, and it is conceivable that, urged by the necessity of combined action, a combination may be made among them, even of a transitory nature, for the purpose of obliging the Cabinet to resign.

So far, it would appear that the King has not taken into serious consideration these various manifestations.

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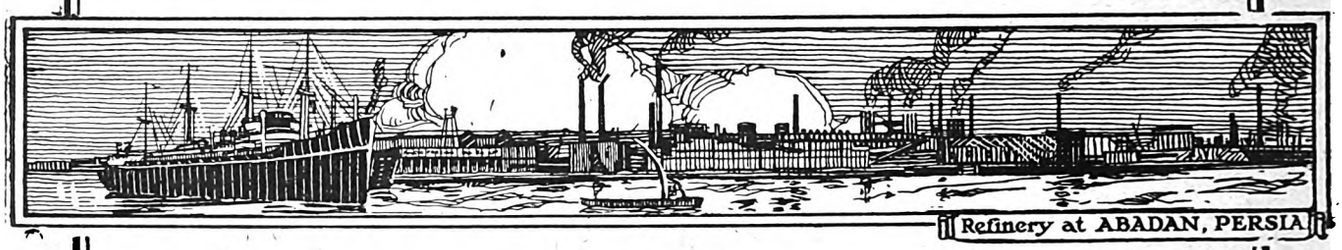

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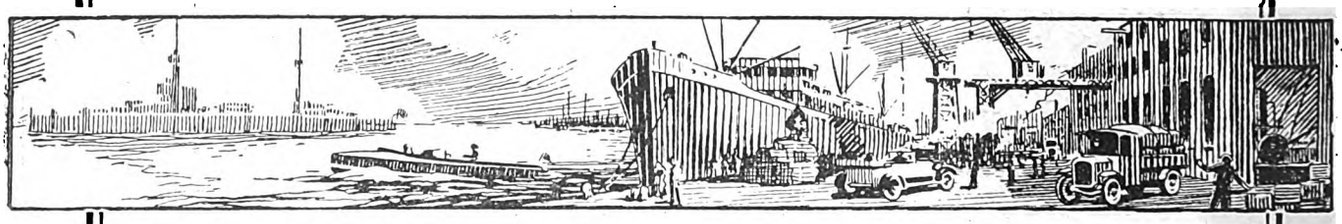

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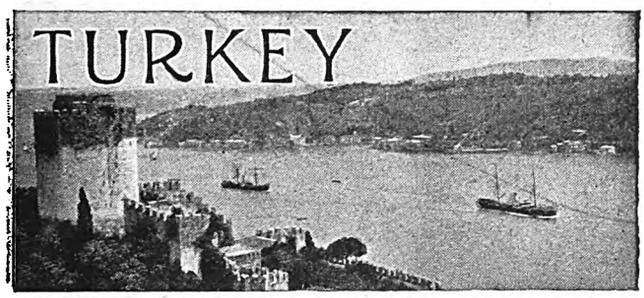
Petroleum.

The Government is busy with the application of the Mining Law, and the new *Société Nationale* for the exploitation and exploration of new petroleum fields held its inaugural meeting a short time ago. Two of the most important petroleum companies—the Romano-Americana (representing American capital) and the Astra Romana (Dutch and British)—have refrained from subscribing to this society. This step is, however, not unfavourably commented upon in expert circles. It is, indeed, justified by the conditions imposed upon the society by the Mining Law, which do not offer sufficient advantages, they argue, in return for the considerable amount of capital they would be obliged to invest. The future will show whether or not this was a prudent decision on their part.



Constantinople, November 24.

The Fall of the Cabinet.

The Government of Ismet Pasha has fallen just when nobody expected that it would fall. A few short weeks ago, when the interpellations in the Assembly, which were intended to shake the position of a few of the ex-Ministers, were converted into a general discussion on a vote of confidence in the whole Cabinet of Ismet Pasha, that Cabinet secured an overwhelming majority. Now it has fallen, and has been replaced by a Cabinet culled from the same party, and containing three Ministers from General Ismet's Cabinet. The new Prime Minister, Fethi Bey, has had a good Press on the whole, and he has declared that he will follow the main lines of the policy of his predecessors.

What is the significance of the change? One thing is clear, namely, that the formation of the new Opposition party of the Progressive Republicans has caused a profound impression in political circles, and that the continued defections from the People's Party have frightened the powers that be. The change of Cabinet must be considered primarily as an attempt to stop the rot that is attacking the People's Party, and much stress is laid upon the fact that certain of the new Ministers have been credited with the intention of allying themselves with the new Opposition. Their inclusion in the new Ministry is naturally interpreted as an attempt to bring them back to their allegiance.

The Opposition.

The official Opposition already numbers some forty odd members, and the adhesion thereto of most of the prominent soldiers who are members of the Assembly has not escaped notice. The formation of the new Cabinet has deprived Kiazim Pasha of his post as Minister of National Defence, which has been assumed by the new Prime Minister, and it will cause no great surprise if that senior officer eventually joins his brother officers in the Opposition.

General Ismet's Régime.

The fall of the Ismet Cabinet is due primarily to its proved incapacity in dealing with the problems of internal administration. The Ministers whose activities have been most severely criticised have all retired into private life, and the *pronunciamento* of Fethi Bey on assuming office appears to indicate that he will depart from the policy of his predecessor only in trying to carry into practical effect the programme which during his régime remained *lettre morte*. No serious changes in foreign policy are probable, for, notwithstanding the rather ungenerous criticisms that have been passed on General Ismet's work during the past few days, no one has been hardy enough to suggest that his direction of foreign policy has failed to secure the best interests of the State.

Party government in this country is in its infancy, and at the risk of offending one's Turkish friends and wounding their perfectly proper pride in their achievements during the past couple of years, it is only fair to point out that, until the other day, when the new Opposition came out with a programme which hints at more than it says, there has been no real conflict of principles in Turkish politics, which alone can lead to a real practical advance in political science. However great one's personal admiration for the sterling character of Ismet Pasha, and one's appreciation of the services which he has rendered to his country both in war and in peace during the last four years, it is impossible not to agree with the general opinion of his compatriots, namely, that his rather autocratic military methods with his colleagues and with the public have alienated sympathies which were his due, and deprived him of the collaboration of capable men who are unwilling to abase themselves to the point of becoming his departmental slaves From that point of view the fall of Ismet, the constitution of a well-knit Opposition, the honeyed words of Fethi Bey on assuming office are all signs of an advance towards the true principles of constitutionalism, which is the alpha and omega of twentieth-century political science. How long the present Cabinet will last is an insoluble mystery, and whether its strictly constitutional origin will sanctify all its doings and consecrate them to the ultimate good of Turkey is a still greater mystery, but one thing is clear, the Turkish Republic can have a change of Government without a sanguinary revolution, wherein it shows itself greatly superior to any previous Turkish Government in modern history. If the new Government lives up to its profession of faith it would be at least graceful to congratulate it.

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PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, November 15.

Syria and Palestine.

General Weygand, French High Commissioner for Syria, reached Jerusalem last Wednesday, and he leaves next Tuesday. The first few days he has spent as Sir Herbert Samuel's guest; for the rest of his visit he is staying at the French Consulate. Inevitably, he is having to endure a busy time with official receptions, interviews, and visits to all and sundry; but he is in process of making an excellent impression for friendliness and accessibility. Very great hopes are being pinned on this, the French High Commissioner's first visit to Palestine; though nominally a courtesy visit, a "return call" after the British High Commissioner's call on General Gouraud two or three years ago, everyone expects it to be very much more; pointed references are being made locally to the fact that General Weygand's predecessor never returned Sir Herbert's visit, and, rightly or wrongly, some significance is read into the fact. All Palestine, save only perhaps the political Arabs, are in hopes that this visit implies intended close co-operation between the French and British administrations in Syria and Palestine, though it must be admitted that there seems to be a distinct dearth of ideas or information as to what specific forms such co-operation could or will take. Much has already been done in the way of securing the peace of the border districts, and both Syria and Palestine seem to be as prompt as could be wished in the way of returning each other's strayed criminals. French Syria had a genuine grievance many months ago owing to the outburst of brigandage operating from North Transjordan (for the good conduct of which the French, rightly, considered the British administration to be at least morally responsible). This outbreak was promptly got under through the efforts of the British gendarmerie —some of whom, it would seem, are even now still quartered at Irbid, in North Transjordan. Other minor matters have been adjusted as between Palestine and Syria—a great reduction in visa fees, customs understandings, and a certain freedom to cross the frontiers for those who live near and whose business takes them across. It must, however, be admitted that some mutual distrust is still "in the air." Those irresponsible people are still uncontradicted who charge the British with fostering Arab ambitions to the detriment of French Syrian interests, or with creating Zionist complications to the distress of the Latins, who, in the main, look to France as their guardian and champion; less in evidence, though still vocal, are those who would see the hands, brains, or money of the French in anything that would thwart British efforts in Palestine, Transjordan, or the Iraq. Such ideas will die of themselves, once there is a declared and manifest desire by the two Powers to assist each other; and such a desire is being read into the French High Commissioner's presence in Jerusalem. It will soon become apparent whether more tangible suggestions for the future have been accepted. The possibilities of a Haifa-Beyrout railway are being discussed in this connection, and it is known that a railway binding up the entire Syrian-Palestinian coast is a favourite idea of General Weygand.

Broadcasting.

Not to be overlooked is the most recent step in Palestine's march towards "civilisation." We are now permitted to install wireless receiving sets on payment of a 10s. licence fee. One's imagination fails to grope with the possible results of "listening-in" here in Palestine. It may be possible to pick up odds and ends in Czech or German, Greek or Bulgarian; perhaps there is a broadcasting station in Egypt; or, maybe, someone will develop tri-lingual broadcasting especially for Palestine.

Jaffa Oranges.

The first batch of oranges for the season was despatched from Jaffa last Monday. This was made the occasion for a little ceremony at which Sir Ronald Storrs, as "officer administering the Government," was present. Arab and Jewish growers have combined in a syndicate which was responsible for the present consignment of 25,000 cases. Sir Ronald shipped the first case to the accompaniment of enthusiastic cheers from the onlookers, and appropriate speeches were made in Hebrew and in Arabic.

The "Strike" on Declaration Day.

The "strike" enjoined on Palestinian Arabdom by the Arab Executive on November 2—"Balfour Declaration Day"—received only a feeble response. The truth seems to be that the local Arabs are not proving capable of sustaining indefinitely the necessary intensity of anti-Jewish hate. A few Arab shops were closed, and their owners sat outside resignedly dangling their keys. The day happened to be a Sunday, which made the strike easier for Christian Arab shopkeepers. Otherwise, everything went on as usual. The fact of the strike and its cause were duly cabled off to the Mandates Commission of the League of Nations.

The opportunity was seized at the same time by the Arab Executive of cabling its congratulations to the Conservative Party in England on its success in the General Election. The Arab malcontents have now lived under Coalition, Conservative, and Labour Governments: but they still have hopes that a change in the British Government will mean a change in the British Palestine policy.

According to the *Pioneer's* Teheran correspondent, the Sirdar Sepah and his staff last week left Shiraz for Bushire, *en route* for Mohammerah.

The Persian Government is reported to have purchased another gunboat, the Pehlevi, which was constructed in Germany and armed in Italy for service in the Persian Gulf.

A report, emanating from Jerusalem, has been published that Sir Herbert Samuel will be succeeded at the end of his period of office next year as High Commissioner for Palestine by Major-General Sir George Fletcher MacMunn, Quartermaster-General in India since 1920.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

December 4, 1924 (New Style).
November 21, 1924 (Old Style).
Jomada I., 7, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Kislev 7, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady (Arthur) Pearson left London last week for Egypt.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Pearson, 179, Queen's Gate, left London last week to winter in India.

Sir Alan and Lady Horne and Lady Bucknill sailed from London on November 28 in the P. and O. s.s. "Caledonia" for Bombay.

Mahmoud Sabet Bey, Secretary at the Egyptian Legation, has given up 24, Cadogan Square, and his new address is 7, Charles Street, Berkeley Square.

Sir Montague Barlow has been advised, owing to ill health, to take a period of complete rest, and is leaving England on a sea voyage to India and the East.

Princess Ileana of Roumania honoured M. Misu, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires in London, with her company at luncheon on November 25 at the Ritz Hotel.

Mme. Zekiai, the wife of the Turkish Minister, left London on November 27 with her family for Constantinople. The Minister accompanied her as far as Calais.

The Earl and Countess of Dalkeith and Sir Robert Horne left London last Thursday by the P. and O. Bombay express to join the s.s. Moldavia at Marseilles.

The Hon. Sir Arthur and Lady Lawley and Miss Lawley sailed last Friday in the R.M.S.P. Company's Almanzora for South America, and are not expected to return before the end of March.

U Maung Pu, leader of the Nationalist Party in the Legislative Council of Burma, has been appointed Minister of Agriculture, Excise, and Forests, vice J. A. Maung Gyi, promoted Judge of the High Court.

The following promotions and transfers in the Colonial Service have been made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—Sir Stanley Fisher, Chief Justice, Cyprus, to Chief Justice, Trinidad; Mr. E. du Boulay, auditor, Cyprus, to treasurer, Cyprus.

A paper on "Jan Zizka, Warrior of God," will be read next Tuesday (December 9), at 5.30 p.m., at 14, Queensberry Place, S.W.7 (the new address of the Czech Society of Great Britain), before the Czech Society by Mr. Francis P. Marchant, with the Lady Maud Hoare in the chair.

The guests entertained by Mr. L. Graeme Scott at luncheon on November 26 at the Carlton Hotel included the Egyptian Minister and Mme. Izzet Pasha, Mahmoud and Mme. Sabet Bey, Sir William and Lady Robertson, Sir George Armstrong, Sir Edward Lucas, Field-Marshal Sir William and Lady Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Shortt, and Dr. Griffin.

Two public lectures on "All Soul's Day and Hobby-Horse Dance in Roumania," illustrated with lantern slides, will be delivered by M. Beza at King's College, Strand, W.C.2. The first lecture will be delivered this afternoon (Thursday), at 5.30 p.m., and the second next Thursday (December 11), at the same hour. Admission is to be free without a ticket.

Mr. A. J. B. Wace will deliver a public lecture on "Greek Embroideries," with lantern illustrations, at University College, Gower Street, this afternoon (Thursday), at 5.30, under the auspices of the Anglo-Hellenic League and University College Archæological Society. The Hon. W. Pember Reeves will take the chair, and admission to the lecture will be free and without ticket.

Colonel-Commandant Lewis Henry Close, C.M.G., R.E., died at Quetta on November 11 at the age of 55. Early in the War he was appointed Assistant Director of Works, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, and served at Mudros and in Egypt, being mentioned in dispatches four times and receiving the C.M.G. and the Order of the Nile of the Third Class. Colonel Close had been since 1920 secretary in the Public Works Department to the A.G.G. in Baluchistan.

The marriage was solemnised in Bombay on November 18 between Major James Strachan, M.C., Directorate of Irrigation, Baghdad, elder son of Major Strachan, Seacliffe, Inverkeithing, and Jeanne Elizabeth, only daughter of the late T. W. Saidler, T.D., Major, Fourth R.G.A., and of Mrs. Saidler, 27, Howard Place, Edinburgh. The bridegroom's uncle, the Rev. J. P. Reid, Chaplain to the Cameron Highlanders, officiated, assisted by the Rev. J. D. Mitchell.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. E. D. Duckworth, I.C.S., Mr. Parungavur Marasimha Chari, and Mr. Joseph Augustus Maung Gyi to be Puisne Judges of the High Court of Judicature in Burma, the two former to fill the posts created by the recently sanctioned increase of the permanent strength of the High Court from eight to ten judges, and the latter to succeed Mr. Justice May Oung, whose appointment to be a member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Burma, in succession to the late Sir Maung Kin, has also received His Majesty's approval.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1924.

THE FUTURE OF THE SUDAN.

Whatever may be said of the Anglo-Egyptian imbroglio, of the Sudan at least it can be said that the parting of the ways has been reached and boldly passed. Actually, the safekeeping of the Sudan had been in Britain's hands for some time, but since the publication of Lord Allenby's recent Notes that fact has been made universally plain. How well the Sudan had been administered under the so-called Condominium is, of course, an international byword; it had no visitor, of whatever nationality, but he marvelled at the content and loyalty of its people, and of their love for the agents of their tutelage. The Sudan Service will easily keep its place in history with the other Imperial services which have given to British administration a world-wide reputation. Latterly, however, grit forced itself in the wheels of Sudan administration; Nationalist intrigue made serious inroads both in the civil and in the military services. Egyptian officials, so far from fulfilling their charge, did all they could to prevent the British from fulfilling theirs; the position had, in fact, become absolutely intolerable and the scheme unworkable. All these facts and tendencies were known and exposed in the proper quarters some months ago. Something, manifestly, had to be done. The British Government, however, bided its time, and officials in the Sudan grew increasingly anxious. Meanwhile, Zaghloul Pasha, far from denouncing the intrigues in the Sudan, of which he was fully cognisant, monotonously and outrageously echoed—or was forced against his better judgment to echo—the demand for complete Egyptian control of the Sudan. Anxiety succeeded to anxiety; in London the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations proved absolutely sterile; and the dark rumblings and plots went on and more ominously on. Finally, as the most tragic climax, came the assassination of General Sir Lee Stack. In itself this was a sufficient signal. This time, and without wasting any words or sparing any feelings, the British Government would act. The office of Sirdarship of the Egyptian Army was separated from that of Governor-General of the Sudan; and Lord Allenby proclaimed the evacuation by Egyptian troops of the Sudan. The fate made inevitable by Egyptian Nationalists has overtaken the land of the Pharaohs, and what is their loss is the Sudan's and Britain's gain. Henceforth, until the time for its independence shall have come, Britain will administer the Sudan alone.

Happily, there is no doubt that little is more to the minds of the Sudanese. It is, we know, a frequent and not always unjustified jibe towards Britain that she professes to know better than do the inhabitants of particular countries their genuine and best desires. But in connection with the Sudan this jibe flattens itself in the air. The Sudanese, we repeat, want us—and we will, for the moment, omit the question of their needing us; two-thirds at least want us for our own sake, and the rest want us for their sake, in the sense that under our tutelage only will they in so many years—perhaps forty or fifty—be fit for their own independence. But, critics of present British policy ask, what becomes of this claim when Sudanese soldiers are found mutinying against the British? The arrow does not get home. For it was well known to the Sudan Government that successful intrigue among the Sudanese Army had been carried on, with the connivance of the Egyptian authorities in the Sudan. In other words, some such revolt as that which broke out from the two platoons on November 27 was certainly foreseen, and it is even possible that other disaffected elements may strive to kick against the kindly pricks. But the sum of the actions of such elements, potential or actual, makes out no case for those who would deny that the Sudan is well content with British administration and well content, too, with the ridding of the mischievous Egyptian plotters. So far, in fact, as can be gleaned of the expressed statements of the vast Nilotic peoples in the Sudan, opinion appears to be in favour of even stricter demands upon Egypt. A little preliminary trouble, and it is not extravagant to say that one can rely to a very large extent upon the loyalty of the Sudan towards Britain.

Not that the future can be foreseen to be without difficulty. An immense task awaits this country in the Sudan, a task that can be performed only with courage and patience equal to those which have so splendidly served us there in the past. For one thing, there is the question of the Sudan's being a burden. Ultimately, the Sudan must be made self-supporting, and in the meantime Britons, both those serving in the Sudan and those paying taxes at home, will feel the burden. It is, however, agreed on all sides that, even allowing for the less direct route of exporting the Sudan's products via the Red Sea, instead of through Egypt, it will in the long run—possibly, we should think, in a dozen years—pay its own way. Again, there is the question of the unity of the Sudan. At the moment it can compare in some aspects with India. Its diverse population is a great problem, for parts of its northern half or third are in education and administrative capacity far ahead of their negroid or Nilotic neighbours, and the Government will have to watch very closely the danger of parts outstripping the whole. Of the negroid peoples, indeed, who, incidentally, already enjoy practical independence, it is difficult to foretell when, if ever, they will be able to rule peoples other than their own kinsmen. For the immediate future, until things are on a more stable basis, the watchword in regard to education must be "Go slow." It is known, in fact, that the authorities are fully alive to the peril of the Gordon College becoming a sort of Al Azhar. The other main problem concerns the future relations between the Sudan and Egypt, although, manifestly, until it is seen of what the future Egypt is to consist speculation here is not very profitable. One thing, however, may be emphasised. Egypt need never fear for her share of the Nile waters. If Egyptians cannot rely upon the word of Britain in this respect, perhaps they can reflect that if their waters were to be tampered with they would have to be tampered with, not in the Sudan, but in Abyssinia and in Uganda. But we will not discuss these things now. For the moment it is sufficient to point out how, largely owing to the folly of the Egyptian Nationalists, once more in the history of the British people a mighty task has fallen to its lot. The suggestion, incidentally, that Britain is in the Sudan only because of its cotton we scout indignantly; Britain is in the Sudan for its cotton no more than she is in Iraq for its oil. Fundamentally, she is there because of her trust. We believe, too, that she will succeed there in founding "a mighty

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State." The old spirit which created this country's reputation is not yet dead.

We sailed wherever ship could sail;
We founded many a mighty State;
Pray God our greatness may not fail
Thro' craven fears of being great.

THE ELECTORIAL CAMPAIGN IN YUGOSLAVIA.

(From Our Zagreb Correspondent.)

November 25.

The National and the Opposition Blocs.

It is becoming more and more evident that this electoral campaign is going to be, in the main, a tug of war between the two great groups known respectively as the National Bloc and the Opposition Bloc.

The National Bloc defends the existing order; it enters the lists with clear watchwords and a unified command. The Opposition Bloc is fighting for innovation; hence its watchwords are various and its command is lacking in unity. Each group within the Opposition Bloc has its own conception of the desired innovation, and the only thing they all have in common is an objection to the existing order of things. One may therefore say that the National Bloc takes its stand on a positive basis, whereas that of the Opposition Bloc is negative.

Now the positive is always stronger than the negative, and therefore it is only natural that the National Bloc should show far better management, technically, in the campaign than does the Opposition Bloc. Above all, the National Bloc has succeeded in making the electoral agreement between Radicals and Independent Democrats almost everywhere effective. The worst of the differences have been overcome, and, except in Slovenia, the idea of a National Bloc has been successful almost throughout.

As the conflict between the National Bloc and its opponents is becoming sharper, the prospects of the former are improving. For the strongly patriotic educated class in Yugoslavia is numerous, and the cry of "The State is in danger" still serves its turn. The leaders of the National Bloc know how to make the most of this cry; and as it is apparently the chartered privilege of the electorate to lose its judgment amid the clamour of election cries, it is only natural that many should discern danger to the State where no danger is. The National Bloc, moreover, has a great advantage in the fact that the Government is wholly at its service. Officials are relentlessly pensioned off or dismissed if they dare to have a political opinion of their own. In this connection an instructive incident was provided by the case of M. Stankovitch, President of the Teachers' Union, who was summoned by M. Pribitchevitch, as Minister of Education, to exculpate himself for presiding over a Davidovitch party meeting.

The further east a district lies the more noticeable does this Government pressure become. All the same, it is not exerted with all that rigour announced by the more hot-blooded among the Government's adherents. The Radicals are cautious and do not want to burn all their boats in case they should fail to gain the majority of the seats in Parliament. And as this contingency is highly probable, they wish to remain in a position to form a Government, if need be, in conjunction with one of the particularist parties.

Another circumstance frequently noted is that the Pribitchevitch party, despite its complete acceptance of the Radical programme and close co-operation with the Radicals, does not really amalgamate with the latter. The explanation offered is that the Radicals will not shoulder the blame for proceeding against the Croats, and that in case of an adverse result of the elections, they wish to make M. Pribitchevitch alone responsible for everything. This calculation on the part of the Radicals is not only interesting, but very characteristic.

Taking things by and large, the parties are by now rallied in their respective camps, and the election watchwords have been duly given out. Almost everywhere the campaign is being waged under the auspices of "race" (or particularist) agitation. For Serbia, for Serbian predominance in the State, and therefore also in the present State—that is the watchword of the Government parties; and as this watchword is bound to be popular with the Serbs, it is likely, with the help of Government pressure, to prove victorious.

The Growth of a Spirit of Compromise.

Far more precarious is the position of M. Davidovitch and his Democrats. They are championing the idea of compromise, which is of necessity opposed to Serbian predominance, and therefore far more popular in non-Serbian regions. That M. Davidovitch nevertheless dares to champion this idea in Serbia itself is proof of his sterling honesty and of his courage. It would not therefore be in the least surprising if the Democrats were to mark but slight progress in Old Serbia; yet the mere fact that there exists a large body in Serbia which favours the idea of compromise and agreement with the Croats shows that Yugoslavia is entering upon the phase of consolidation, and that the extremist parties will have to give place to the moderate.

The same thing is noticeable among the Croats. Beyond all doubt M. Raditch has reached the zenith of his career. Whether this will show at the elections themselves, or directly afterwards, is irrevalent, because it is becoming increasingly plain that even within the Raditch party there are some of its very founders opposed to his nebulous policy of mere serbophobia, as was recently shown by the expulsion of the deputy Lovrekovitch from the party. To all appearance the Raditch party has greatly increased its strength by the complete endorsement of the Raditch's programme by the party of the Croatian *intelligentsia* known as the Croatian *Zajednica* (bloc). But this reinforcement is only apparent, because even in past elections the Croatian bloc was altogether at one with M. Raditch, and used to return his candidates. Nor can the following be left out of consideration. The Croatian bloc is the Croatian bourgeois party, which neither has, nor can by itself find, a following in the rural districts. Therefore it is quite on the cards that the leaders of the bloc are now joining M. Raditch solely for the purpose of securing his inheritance. The collapse of the Raditch party must come about, at the latest and in any case, at the moment when M. Raditch will find himself compelled to pass from a passive policy to an active one. That will be the opportune time for members of the Croatian bloc who are holding leading positions, and will retain them, too, because M. Raditch will have given them the confidence of the peasants. For this reason the Croatian bloc is

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content to forgo the few mandates it might claim, for the sake of the majority to be gained later on.

In Slovenia the Opposition parties are fighting in the sign of Slovene particularism, and the Government parties in that of the idea of State unity. But even in Slovenia the point at issue is not stated squarely. Certainly the great questions of agreement and of the final administrative division of Yugoslavia loom large in the foreground; but Slovenedom is not endangered, nor does it enter into the debate. The Government election cry is no nearer the mark. A decided majority in Slovenia is for Slovenedom as well as for Yugoslavia, and the watchword, in order to touch the spot, would have to spell reconciliation of these two fundamental claims. But the midway attitude offers poor material for agitation, and so it cannot hope to score as vigorously in an election campaign as the extremist parties can. All the same, it is gaining ground steadily.

The struggle is as yet in its initial stages, and unlikely to grow in intensity until after Christmas. But after the New Year it will become acute, and only then will it be possible to prognosticate at all accurately. But even to-day one may venture to assert that the idea of agreement will not suffer, and that the victories of both blocs over other, smaller parties, will only accentuate the need for it. The two-party system, towards which Yugoslavia, too, is moving, is possible only on a basis of ideas, not on one of geographical division, and this applies to the two blocs in the present electoral campaign.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

BRITAIN AND EGYPT.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—May I congratulate you on your very discriminating article, "Egyptian Independence: The First Fruits," in your issue of November 27? It was indeed refreshing to read something that was neither a wholesale accusation of Egyptian Nationalism nor a denunciation of "British Imperialism," the two catchwords which seem to have filled most of the British Press. But in attempting to see a way through the present darkness are you not, sir, trying to see the unseeable? Is not the Egyptian problem, however it be handled, really like, say, the unity of Palestine or of Ireland, one of life's "insolubles"? To me, at any rate, it appears that literally no policy in Egypt, whether it be evacuation, or Cromerism, or governance as a Crown Colony, is possible, and that in fifty years' time the problem will re-present itself in a form similar to that which is puzzling the world to-day.—I am, etc.,

"DOUBTING OPTIMIST."

London, November 28

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The readers of THE NEAR EAST cannot, I am sure, accuse me of want of sympathy with the Egyptians' aspirations to govern themselves, so good have you been, Sir, in granting me the hospitality of your columns. But, however much the action of the British Government may have been open to criticism in the past, the civilised world will without doubt endorse the ultimatum which Lord Allenby was instructed to communicate to the Egyptian authorities, severe though it might be. But it may also be inquired: Why was not a similar ultimatum sent to the Irish Free State when a machine-gun opened fire on unarmed soldiers landing at Waterford? Surely the murder of the Sirdar in Cairo was not in any way a more heinous crime; both are equally indefensible. The Egyptian Government has now learned to its cost that Irish and Egyptian crimes are not weighed in the same political scales, and must endeavour by its future conduct to obtain a mitigation of the punishment which has been inflicted.

The want of discipline in the Government schools in Egypt is at the bottom of the whole trouble, and a nation which allows students to dictate the policy of its Government has only itself to thank when its statesmen find themselves confronted with the situation which has now arisen in Egypt. Schoolboy strikers going unpunished soon develop into political agitators, and the next step is the formation of secret societies with ringleaders preaching to these immature youths that political assassination is no murder, but a patriotic action. I refuse to believe that Zaghloul Pasha has connived at these murders, but, like other Egyptian leaders, he has made use of these schoolboy agitations in furtherance of his Home Rule policy.

One of the conditions laid down by the British Government is that all popular political demonstrations shall cease. This certainly is a tall order, and presumably it means demonstrations against our control.

Anyway, if the Egyptian Government is wise, it will endeavour to carry out this injunction by forthwith forbidding any student of a Government school taking part in a political meeting of any kind, or for whatever purpose the meeting is assembled. Further, it is quite useless to lay down a law without prescribing a punishment for the breach thereof. There is only one punishment which will prove effective, and that is whipping. I am not at all sure that all our recent troubles in Egypt have not arisen from the lack of the cane in any Government school (outside the reformatory).

Europeanised Egyptians scoff at the idea of such brutal methods being necessary, and they have got their country into this mess in consequence. It is now for the Egyptian Government to adopt this method or find some other way of getting their orders obeyed. A Government which cannot rule schoolboys will certainly never be able to maintain order in the country.—I am, etc.,

COLES PASHA.

British Club, Biarritz, Nov. 24, 1924.

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AN EGYPTIAN PROTEST.

We have received the following telegram from the President of the Egyptian Chamber of Deputies :—

"Monsieur le Président,—I have the honour to transmit to you the following protest which the Chamber of Deputies of Egypt decided unanimously in its sitting of November 24, 1924, to address to the League of Nations and to all the Parliaments of the world. In face of the recent aggressions committed by the Britannic Government against the rights of the Egyptian nation, its sovereignty and its Constitution, the Chamber of Deputies of Egypt declares its adhesion to the complete independence of Egypt and of the Sudan, which constitute a single country, one and indivisible.

"Despite the formal disavowal expressed by the nation, its Sovereign, its Government, and its Parliament, of the odious crime committed against the regretted Sir Lee Stack Pasha, Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and Governor-General of the Sudan, and despite the satisfactions furnished by the Government and the efficacious measures which it has taken with a view to the pursuit of the criminals and their delivery to justice, the Chamber deeply regrets that the Britannic Government has considered it necessary to exploit this sad incident to the profit of its imperialist purposes, and to resort to brutal force to wreak vengeance upon an innocent nation which counts solely on the strength of its right and the justice of its cause.

"The Britannic Government has not only formulated excessive demands beyond all proportion to the crime, but, passing all bounds, it has gone so far as to demand the withdrawal of the Egyptian troops from the Sudan, to oblige the Sudanese elements of the Egyptian army to take an oath of allegiance to the Governor of the Sudan, to authorise the extension of the area of the soil cultivated by the British colonial companies in the Sudan, increasing it from the figure of 300,000 feddans up to an indefinite limit, to demand of the Egyptian Government the abandonment of all opposition to the wishes of the Britannic Government with regard to the protection claimed by it for foreign interests in Egypt, and to formulate other claims contained in the British Notes.

"Passing from words to deeds, the Britannic Government has carried its threats into execution, and has, furthermore, occupied the Customs of Alexandria, declaring that this act constituted only the first of the steps which it intended to take. These aggressions, which are an absolute negation of the rights of Egypt and an infringement of her independence, constitute an intrusion into her affairs, a violation of her Constitution, and a menace to her agricultural and economic life. They have no relation to the crime, and have no precedent in history. For these reasons, the Chamber of Deputies of Egypt declares to the whole world its most energetic protest against such acts, inequitable in fact and without basis in law, and calls upon all civilised nations to witness the enormity of such imperialist lusts, irreconcilable with the spirit of this century and with the sacred rights of nations.

"It addresses its protest to all the Parliaments of the world, and appeals to the League of Nations, asking it to intervene to defend against arbitrariness an innocent nation which, profoundly attached to its sacred and imprescriptible rights to life and liberty, demands nothing more than its independence. "AHMED MAZLOUM, President."

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THE PERSIA SOCIETY.

The Persia Society held a reception last Friday afternoon at the House of Lords to meet the Persian Minister. Lord Lamington, the President of the Society, received the guests, among whom were :—Mr. and Mrs. Ameer Ali, Sir Thomas Arnold, Sir Hugh and Lady Barnes, Sir Frederick and Lady Black, Sir William and Lady Crundall, Lieutenant-General Sir Raleigh Egerton, Lady Fisher, Sir Harry Foster, M.P., Sir Charles Greenway, Lady Haig, Major-General Beresford Lovett, Sir Charles Marling, Mrs. Emlie Mond, Miss May Mond, Lady Owen-Mackenzie, Sir Michael O'Dwyer, Vice-Admiral N. C. Palmer, Sir Denison and Lady Ross, Admiral Sir Edmond Slade, Rear-Admiral Cecil Staveley, Colonel Sir Charles Yate, and members of the Legation and Consulate with their ladies.

SYRIA AND PALESTINE.

At the banquet given at Government House, Jerusalem, on November 12, in honour of the French High Commissioner for Syria, important speeches were made by Sir Herbert Samuel and by General Weygand. We select certain extracts from them.

In the course of his remarks Sir Herbert Samuel said :—

"In inviting you to toast our distinguished host, General Weygand, I wish to express what pleasure this visit gives to the Palestine Administration. His Excellency, famous as a soldier, is in process of recalling in the field of peace his success in the arena of war.

"The High Commissioner in Syria and the Lebanon, like myself in Palestine, is charged with the administration of a system new in history; these countries are neither colonies nor protectorates, but countries under a Mandate—that is to say, fiduciary charges. This state of things is marked by the acceptance of a responsibility on the part of the Mandatory Powers towards the League of Nations. Although this responsibility is not a thing of precise form, it is a reality, as I have just proved some days ago, when I appeared before the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations at Geneva. I perceived that the Commission takes a very great interest in the march of events here in Palestine, an interest for which I am very grateful.

"My object has always been, and I am sure that it has also been His Excellency's object, loyally to apply the decisions of the Great Powers towards

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these countries, trying, without jealousy and without friction, to facilitate the tasks of our neighbours, as we have found them always ready to facilitate ours. It has been our duty, a duty attended with some success, to reduce to a minimum, by arrangements of good-neighbourliness, the inconveniences imposed on the population by the establishment of a frontier across a country which was formerly a unity. Such arrangements are not yet absolutely complete, but each year can be seen improvements in the measures concluded between the two administrations, assisted greatly by the excellent personal relations between our officers on each side of the frontier.

"I preserve the most agreeable recollections of the goodwill and welcome which were accorded me on the occasion of the official visit which I had the honour to make to Syria by the distinguished predecessor of His Excellency General Gouraud. If His Excellency and Mme. Weygand take from Palestine as happy memories we shall be abundantly satisfied."

Replying, General Weygand said:—

"The Mandate, whose unprecise and new character Sir Herbert has explained, France accepts completely, with its charges and obligations; and she intends to apply them loyally.

"In thus pursuing in the same spirit as Britain a work similar to that which is confided to the friendly nation, she will continue to follow in the Near East a general policy of union and of *rapprochement*.

"This policy shows itself in the good understanding between the two High Commissioners, in the collaboration of their functionaries, as soon as circumstances demand it, in the relations of excellent neighbourliness which exist between their officers on each side of the frontiers.

"It has, moreover, produced very important friendly results. . . . These results must lead, first, to the complete security of our frontiers; then they will reduce the obstacles in the way of the economic development of Syria, the Lebanon, and Palestine; then will come facility in exchange; and an increase in traffic will be one of the elements in that prosperity which the Mandatory States must give to those under their care."

The following is an authoritative report of an interview given on November 16 by General Weygand to the "Palestine Press Association":—

General Weygand explained, first of all, the real reasons of his journey to Palestine. His visit had undoubtedly an official character; it was not, however, a visit provoked by the necessity of the two High Commissioners' regulating various questions interesting their respective Administrations, and any statements published to that effect were without foundation.

For a long time General Weygand had intended to accept an invitation renewed by Sir Herbert Samuel and of returning the visit which was made to Syria to his predecessor, and, too, he wished to visit Jerusalem and the Holy Places, there to evoke some of the memories which France had left in the course of the centuries.

This visit gave him the opportunity of showing his sympathy to the representative of His Britannic Majesty and of affirming the policy of friendly collaboration which inspires the administration of the territories confided to the French Mandate. Moreover, he had found in the welcome of Sir Herbert Samuel, in his extreme courtesy, in his hospitality, in his speech of November 12, and in the private conversations that he had had with him, the conviction that such a policy equally inspired the High Commissioner in Palestine.

This community of views, with which he declared himself highly satisfied, must lead to increasingly closer co-operation. It had already produced very appreciable results from the point of view of the security of the frontiers and of economic relations; and General Weygand emphasised, in making special allusions to recent events, which are still fresh in the minds of all, the fact that it is only by common action on the part of England and France that order can be re-established on the frontiers which these two Powers are charged to defend.

For the development of common action, the General declared himself in favour of personal relations, as frequent and as close as possible, first between the two High Commissioners, next between the various official functionaries, and then between the officers under their orders. He believed, in short, that misunderstandings between people of good faith could not exist when they were directly and loyally explained.

For the future General Weygand assigned to this co-operation an even greater importance; to him it offered in particular a vast field of action in the linking up of the various lines of the Palestine Railways with the network of Syria and of the Lebanon. Junction would be effected by a coast line uniting Beyrout and Haifa, and in this connection he had already interviewed representatives of Syrian-Lebanon interests. These had shown themselves extremely favourable; and now that the principal persons in Palestine had declared their adhesion to the project, agreement was assured. On his side the General would energetically incline the States under the French Mandate to the idea; and he hoped that the negotiations on the partitioning of the Ottoman Public Debt would permit a real effort in this direction.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Greek Loan.

It is invariably the case as regards loans for the Near East that coming events cast a very considerable shadow before them, and the Greek Refugee Loan, which is being issued under the auspices of the League of Nations, has been on the tapis, so to speak, for a long time. Developments in this country in the last month or so would have made the issue of the loan before this inadvisabie, even if the formalities that had to be settled with the League of Nations had been completed. The terms on which the loan is being raised will undoubtedly prove attractive, while the loan, which will be redeemable within a comparatively short period at par through a sinking fund by half-yearly drawings, will have for security the assignment of special revenues, and will also constitute a first charge on the property and revenues of the Refugee Settlement Commission. The action of the Greek Government in regard to the Lake Copais Company and in respect of part of the claims of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway Company cannot fail to have a good effect on the body of investors generally, whose confidence in investments outside the Empire has been rudely shaken by some recent happenings, and I shall be surprised if the present loan, which must be regarded as an essential part of the work of world reconstruction after the War, does not meet with a very cordial reception.

Greek Government Loans.

It is important to note that throughout the vicissitudes of the past twenty-six years Greece has faithfully carried out her financial obligations. Bearing in mind the various occurrences, it cannot but be admitted that this is no light achievement. This point is emphasised in a leaflet by Mr. P. Freme which has just reached me, in which the writer gives a careful survey of facts and figures regarding Greek Government loans. He points out that by far the greater portion of the existing loans are held by Greek people resident in Greece or abroad, in contrast to what is the case as regards loans of some other Near Eastern countries, and that while the population of Greece is estimated at 7,000,000, the total debt, including the present loan, only amounts to about £105,000,000, the indebtedness being thus no more than £15 per head. Mr. Freme lays stress on the industrious and thrifty character of the Greeks, and draws attention to the mercantile marine, the remittances to Greece from refugees, especially from those in America, the greatly increased production of tobacco, and the eventual reproductive labour of the large refugee population, as factors which cannot fail to give rise to a feeling of confidence in the future of Greece.

Roumania and Foreign Enterprise.

One matter dealt with by Sir Frederick Lewis at the meeting of the Danube Navigation Company calls for comment. The company has been equal to solving many problems with which they have been confronted in their operations on a river which touches so many States and where there are so many restrictions of one kind and another to be overcome. As regards the Anglo-Roumanian Danube Navigation Company, which was formed to link up Roumania with the upper stretches of the Danube, the company has not been so fortunate, and it has been decided that there was no practical alternative but to sell the steamers and wind up the concern. This step, which will probably involve the company in a loss, is due to the policy of Roumania in regard to foreign enterprise. "While we have every sympathy with the Roumanian Government," said Sir Frederick, "in their efforts to bring about stable conditions and develop their resources and industries, and we recognise that they are perfectly free to adopt whatever legitimate measures they consider are best suited to their policy, none the less I feel that it is a great mistake from their own point of view to rebuff foreign enterprise and to interfere with the interests of foreign capital already invested in commercial undertakings in full compliance with the laws of the country as they existed at the time the investments were made."

The Exhibition.

With the Exhibition certain to be held again next year (though a definite announcement to that effect has still to be made), the chief interest now centres in the programme. It is profoundly to be hoped that all the parts of the Empire who took part last time will again be represented, and I imagine that ultimately it will be found that that will be the case. In several instances the converse has been stated, but there is fortunately ample time for a change of view.

Great Britain and the Near East.

There is no question that up to the present time British enterprise has played anything but an important part in works of development in the Balkans. The reconstruction of Salonika is a case in point. It was recently stated that in the work that is now being done at that centre not a penny's-worth of British iron or steel is being used. And it would not be difficult to cite a variety of other cases in which for one reason or another opportunity has passed us by. It behoves us if this country is to establish satisfactory relations with the Near East to find out why British enterprise is so often lacking in that region. It cannot be put down now to the plethora of other outlets.

COMMENTATOR.

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THE ECONOMIC ADVANCE OF THE SUDAN.

Those who wish to know something of the progress that is being made in the Sudan and to glean some idea of the prospects before that rapidly developing country would do well to peruse the annual report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for the past year which has recently been issued. It throws a very vivid light on conditions in that part of the Empire of which we have a special reason for being proud, since there British civilisation seems likely to achieve its completest triumph. Nowhere certainly has the work been more arduous, nowhere have the conditions been less promising for rapid progress, and it speaks volumes for the unselfish, untiring work of the little body of British representatives whose lot it has been to assist in furthering the development of the Sudan that in the space of a few years a really wonderful advance has taken place. Lines of communication have been opened up, and the way has been made clear for the growth of a great industry—cotton-growing—which promises to transform the face of the Sudan and to enrich the country in a manner that would not have been dreamt of a few decades ago.

Trade statistics are the barometer of a country's material progress, and the figures for the Sudan, as readers of these columns know well, lay ever increasing emphasis on the country's economic advance. A few figures may be cited to illustrate the position. In 1907 the total value of the external trade of the Sudan was £E2,237,000, and by the year before the war the total had increased to £E3,660,000. The figures for the years immediately following the war are apt to be misleading owing to inflated values, but passing to the year 1922 we find the volume of trade to be £E6,777,000, a total considerably below the figures of the three previous years, but judged by subsequent figures indicative of more stable conditions, and therefore of greater value for comparative purposes. Taking the figures for this year with those for 1913, and making allowances for the considerable alteration in economic conditions, it is evident that the Sudan had continued her advance during these years, and it is reasonable to assume that but for the war the position would have been immeasurably more favourable. For 1923 the figures were £E7,790,000, a very notable advance, while for the first eight months of the present year the figures were £E6,419,729, and if it be assumed, as is reasonable, that the returns for the remaining four months are at least half that total, then it is evident that 1924 will show a further and very great advance; it may well be, indeed, that this year for the first time the value of the Sudan's trade will nearly if not quite reach eight figures. That result will be no small achievement, but its main interest will lie in the promise it will hold out for the future.

The changing relations of imports to exports over the years mentioned is very interesting. For 1907 the value of the imports was £E1,706,000, while that of the exports was £E531,000. The figures for 1913 were respectively £E2,141,000 and £E1,519,000, showing that the export trade was rapidly bridging the gap separating it from the imports. For 1923 we have £E4,701,000 for imports and £E3,089,000 for exports, the increased difference being due, of course, to the extensive purchases of machinery, etc., for works of development. Then for the first eight months of the present year the respective totals are £E3,478,231 and £E2,774,650, there being thus still a substantial but a notably decreasing adverse trade balance. Since 1907 the ratio of exports to imports has varied very considerably, but on the whole the trend has been in favour of the Sudan, and as developments in connection with cotton progress the tendency will necessarily be much more marked. For 1908 the value of the exports was 27.2 per cent. of the value of the imports. The percentage rose to 69.7 per cent. for 1912, and for the following year was 56.1. The War years were, of course, abnormal, and what happened then must be ignored for comparative purposes, but it is interesting to note that from 1915 to 1918 inclusive the percentage was not lower than 85.9, and in 1918 was 97.5. For 1922 the figure was 46.9, and for 1923 54.9, and the present year will see a further decided advance, despite the fact that purchases of machinery are still on a large scale.

One of the most interesting sections of the report is that dealing with cotton. A table is given indicating the area under this crop from 1917 to 1923, which shows considerable fluctuations over the period, due to the difference in the extent of the cotton grown on flood land from year to year. During these seven years there was a steady advance in the irrigated area, and while for 1917 cotton grown under artificial irrigation stood at 8,366 feddans out of a total of 74,745 feddans, it represented in 1923 25,064 feddans out of a total of 61,588 feddans, the decreased total being due to the poor Baraka flood at Tokar. These figures are small compared with the vast areas now being prepared for cultivation, and the relatively small export of cotton from the Sudan up to the present time is no indication of the assistance that the Sudan will be giving Lancashire as regards the supply of cotton in the course of a few years.

Considerations of space prevent detailed comment on all the sections of the report, but some reference must be made to the gum industry of the Sudan, which has always played a very important rôle in the export trade. The export of gum arabic has ranged from 19,615 tons in 1912 to 22,425 tons in 1923. Last year was a phenomenal one in the gum industry, the exports being 53.93 per cent. greater than the figures for the previous year, and constituting a record. The value of the exports in 1923 was £E1,006,623, or 39.29 per cent. of the total exports of the country, a fact which speaks for itself as to the value of the industry, which, be it added, is capable of great development. But this and other items in the Sudan's list of exports, important as they are, and will be, are destined in the near future to play but a small figure as cotton comes to bulk more and more largely in the export list.

Dewan Bahadur T. Vijayaraghavacharya, Indian Exhibition Commissioner, gave a dinner on November 25 at the Trocadero Restaurant to meet Sir Bhupendranath Mitra, the acting High Commissioner for India. The guests included:—Sir Louis Newton, Sir William Clark, Sir Stephen Demetriadi, Sir Arthur Hirtzel, Sir Louis Kershaw, Sir Bourchier Wrey, Sir Edward Cook, Colonel A. D'A. Bannerman, Mr. F. H. Brown, Dr. Majid, Dr. Ahmad, Mr. Kanungs, Dr. Stevens, and Mr. Sundersan.

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Shipping Intelligence.

ELLERMAN LINER'S FAST PASSAGE FROM INDIA.

The s.s. City of London, which arrived in Liverpool on November 25, after an exceptionally fast homeward passage, left Karachi on October 31, arrived at Plymouth at 4 a.m. on the 19th ult., landed her passengers at 8.30 a.m., and proceeded an hour later to Dunkirk. Allowing for the usual twelve hours' delay in the transit of the Suez Canal, the City of London has thus accomplished the journey from Karachi to this country in 18½ days. It is not surprising, therefore, that she has been a great favourite with the Anglo-Indian traveller for many years, her reputation for speed being only equalled by the comfortable lines upon which her accommodation for 283 first and second-class passengers is arranged. It is noteworthy that this liner, furthermore, carries over 10,000 tons of cargo, and has now brought to Liverpool 15,000 bales of Indian wool, one of the largest consignments of this commodity that has ever been shipped in a single steamer

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, December 6). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mandasor for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 13).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 17).

British India Line.—S.s. Mirzapore for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 6); s.s. Mashobra for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 6).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Christiania for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 9).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S s. Assyrian for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (London, December 6); s.s. Grodno for Gibraltar, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, and Smyrna (London, December 17).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 6); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 27).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Narkunda for Bombay (London, December 12); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 13).

Prince Line.—S.s. Soldier Prince for Tunis, Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (Manchester, December 9); s.s. Korean Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, December 17).

SHIPMENT OF TINPLATES TO EGYPT.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Cairo in a recent report states that importers of tinplates have complained that certain United Kingdom firms are now in the habit of shipping their goods by German lines via Hamburg, in order to obtain lower rates, but this system reacts to the disadvantage of the importer, who is compelled to pay very high landing charges to German shipping agents. These amount to as much as 25 piastres per ton for general cargo, whereas British shipping agents only charge 8 piastres per ton. It is also said that the transhipment of cargo at Continental ports is responsible for considerable delay in the execution of orders.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Electric Power Station and Distribution Lines.—The Municipalities and Local Commissions Section of the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, Savoy House, Cairo, invite tenders for the supply and installation of the equipment for an electric power station and distribution system for the town of Mellawi. The contract is divided into two sections. The first comprises the construction of the foundations for the generating sets, the supply and installations of two Diesel-driven generating sets of 80 k.v.a. and one set of 160 k.v.a., together with distribution boards, switchboards, etc., and all accessories. The second section comprises the supply and installation of underground cables and of the transformer cabins, poles, insulators, brackets, overhead copper conductors, lamps, etc. The power to be produced is 3-phase alternating current at 3,300 volts of 50 cycles, and is to be transmitted at this pressure by two underground cables to 6 transformer cabins, where the voltage will be reduced to 200. The consumer's voltage is to be 200, and is to be distributed by a 3-phase, 3-wire, overhead copper transmission line. Sixteen transformers are required, two each of 5, 20, 25, and 100 k.v.a. and four each of 10 and 15 k.v.a. December 28. (D.O.T.)

Steel Reservoir.—The Ministry of the Interior, Egypt, invites tenders for the supply and erection of a steel reservoir of 300 m³., with all steel work, pipes, and accessories, and electric level indicator. December 28. (D.O.T.)

Drugs.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of drugs required for the period of one year from April 1, 1925. January 6.

Locomotives.—The Egyptian State Railways invite tenders for five passenger engines for the Luxor-Assuan Line. The gauge of this line is 3 ft. 6 in. January 13. (D.O.T.)

Clothing, etc.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, equipment, tents, etc., required for the year 1925-1926. January 16.

Candles.—The Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of two English tons of candles. February 3.

Calico and Sash.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza (Mudiriya), invites tenders for the supply of calico and sash required for the next financial year, 1925-1926. February 10.

Turkey

Barbed Wire.—The Commission des achats des chemins de fer d'Anatolie invite tenders for the supply of five tons of galvanised barbed wire. (D.O.T.)

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Company Meetings.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK.

The Cotton Crop.

The thirty-eighth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, was held on November 25 at the bank, 37-39, King William Street, E.C. Mr. Raoul H. Foà, chairman of the bank, presided.

The Secretary (Mr. H. H. Mallet) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said:—You will observe in the balance-sheet very little alteration this year in the figures as compared with those of last year. The deposits and current accounts have risen £1,200,000. The investments have been reduced by £452,704, and the acceptances have risen to £428,726, while our bills receivable have risen £1,200,000, roughly representing the increase in deposit account. The gross profit this year amounts to £444,999 9s. 2d., against £417,698 last year, but the expenses in London and the branches have increased some £13,000, with the result that the net profit this year amounts to £157,301, against £156,883 last year. We have paid the usual interim dividend of 5s. per share, and propose to pay the equally usual dividend of 10s. per share on December 1, both free of income-tax. We have this year been able to allocate £10,000 to writing off the premises account, and we are carrying forward £48,755 8s. 10d.

The remarks which I made last year on the subject of our investments, which consist almost entirely of gilt-edged British securities, and stand at cost or market price, whichever is the lower, thereby constituting an inner reserve, hold good this year also.

In the early part of the year our colleague, Mr. Mounsey, made an extended tour through Egypt, the Sudan, and Palestine, and his trip was of much service to the bank, besides giving him personal insight into our business, which cannot be gained elsewhere than on the spot.

The cotton crop of Egypt this year is estimated at 6,970,000 kantars, as compared with 6,411,435 last year, 5,356,934 in 1922, and 6,036,000 in 1921, the highest previous having been 7,684,172 in 1914. As long as these large yields of cotton, combined with high prices, obtain the prosperity of Egypt is assured, given sound and stable Government.

You are aware, no doubt, that the well-being of a bank such as ours depends to a certain extent upon the line of policy laid down for it by the directors, more still upon the efficiency and energy of its managers, and most of all upon the prosperity of the countries in which it works, and under these conditions I think I am not overstating the case in predicting a future for the bank as satisfactory to its shareholders as its past has been, although competition in banking in Egypt is ever on the increase.

We have opened branches this year in Minieh, Upper Egypt, and in Wad Medani, in the Sudan, but have closed our agency at Amman, in Transjordania. We went to this country at the request of the Colonial Office, but the hopes which we formed of profitably working in that country were not realised, and, truth to tell, the development of civilisation there has not gone on as was to be expected.

It must occur to you that I should refer in my speech to the events recently taking place in Egypt and in the Sudan. Now, if there is one thing which I invariably avoid in speaking it is a detailed reference to events in politics in the countries in which we work, and I will content myself by saying that while they have gone by by no means unperceived my colleagues and I have not been dismayed by them, and we hope and trust that a reasonable and honourable *modus vivendi* between England and Egypt will soon be reached.

I revised the few words which I have spoken to you only last Thursday before going abroad, and since then events of the greatest importance have occurred—events which, I feel sure, will ultimately be fraught with the greatest good to that country. The Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and Governor of the Sudan was foully murdered, and I hasten to pay tribute to a good and just man, the whole of whose life had been devoted to the good of the country which he governed, and in which he was beloved by white and coloured races alike. He had extended most gracious hospitality to me when I was in the Sudan, and I shall miss him much. I feel sure that Egypt will retain its prosperity, which is as precious to you, the shareholders of this bank, as it is to the inhabitants of the country.

Sir Marshall F. Reid, C.I.E., seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

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ASSAM RAILWAYS AND TRADING.

A Record Profit.

The forty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Limited, was held on November 26 at Winchester House, E.C.

Mr. George Turner, M.E. (the chairman), said that, in spite of considerable difficulties, the directors were able to submit a general net revenue account with a profit larger than the company had ever before shown. They had had their troubles and set-backs, which seemed inherent in enterprises in the East, but the efforts they had made to improve the company's position by increasing its earnings had borne fruit.

In the railway accounts the traffics showed very distinct improvement, and the steady increase in general earnings which they had had for years was again maintained. This year the increase was approximately 15 per cent., and the latest returns to hand for the current year showed still higher figures. The railway ran through some of the best tea land in Assam, and with the present prosperity in tea there was every reason to look forward to a steadily increasing revenue for some time to come. The output of the collieries was down, chiefly owing to labour causes, but it was now improving, and he hoped that the current year would show an advance. The development of their new mines continued satisfactorily, and the railway out to them was now through, though a good deal of work was still needed before it could be regarded as consolidated and actually completed.

With regard to their other interests, as a whole he was very pleased with the company's investments in tea. They were an improving asset, and had already made substantial contributions to revenue. The timber department had done well, the sawmills having made a good profit. The veneer mills were making chests, and a number had arrived on this side and had turned out very well. They believed they had a market for all they could produce.

The general net revenue account showed a profit of £137,778, to which £1,955 brought forward had to be added. The directors recommended a final dividend of 6 per cent. on the "B" stock, making 8 per cent. for the year. This was the largest dividend they had paid on that stock, and they hoped from now on at least to maintain it, and possibly to improve on it.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended November 10 amounted to £E15,571, making the total from April 1 £E204,779.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Rise in Coffee.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Oilcakes.—The market has been steady. Linseed cake is unchanged at 280s., coconut cake is the same at 240s., while cottonseed cake is unaltered at 180s.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair request at unchanged prices. Tate's cubes are 40s. 3d., London granulated is 35s. 10½d., while Lyle's granulated is 36s. 1½d. Foreign descriptions have been firm. West Indian crystallised has been done at 34s. 6d., white Java is 33s. 3d., while Czech granulated is 33s. 10½d. Futures are firm. Quotations are:—March, 18s. 8½d.; May, 19s.; August, 19s.

Coffee.—The market has again been very firm, and prices have advanced almost all along the line. Costa Rica, exceptionally, is unchanged at 170s., East Indian is 4s. up at 160s., Kenya is 10s. up at 156s., while Santos has gained 2s. at 120s.

Currants.—A steady tone has prevailed in the market. Demand is still on a poor level, however, and the bulk of the business done has been in Vostizzas and Gulf. It is surprising, in view of the proximity of Christmas, that more trade is not being done, and if the inactivity continues much longer the conclusion will be inevitable that for the time being currants are declining in public favour.

Sultanas.—Nothing of particular interest has transpired in this market. Supplies of Smyrnas are ample to meet requirements, but as the demand is brisk lower values are unlikely.

Figs.—The sharp decline in prices has been the outstanding feature. The effect of the reduced rates has been to stimulate demand, and this commodity has been moving off briskly.

Plums.—This commodity has been the medium of very good business. Supplies are none too plentiful, and the effect of the good demand has been an increase in prices.

Dates.—A very fair business has been transacted. Persians have been in good request.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been quiet. Indian has been done at 23s. 9d., while La Plata has come to business at 21s. 10½d. Rapeseed has been on the dull side. Toria is 23s. 6d., while real bold Ferozepore is 23s. Cottonseed has been quiet. Indian is 11s., Egyptian black is 13s. 6d., while Sakellarides is 13s.

Seed Oils.—Linseed is quiet at 45s. 9d. spot. Rape oil has shown a tendency to harden, crude being 52s. 6d., while technical refined is 55s. 6d. Cotton oil is steady. Refined common edible is 51s., Bombay crude is 44s. 6d., Egyptian crude is 46s. 6d., technical is 49s., while deodorised is 53s.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Company report as follows for the week ended November 8:—The arrivals of sultanas on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are estimated at 36,000 tons, and the sales to date are put at 34,000 tons. Closing Prices: London-Liverpool, per cwt. c.i.f. —Type 12, 48s.; 13, 55s.; 14, 59s.; 15, 63s.; 16, 70s.; 17, 77s.

Activity continues in the sultana market, as will be noted by the list of weekly sales. Prices are slowly but steadily advancing. The strength of the position on this side is largely due to the small stocks now remaining on hand.

The total sales of figs to date amount to 228,391 sacks, as against 174,401 sacks last year this date. Stocks on the market are practically exhausted. The interior may or may not be holding back a few hundred tons, but it is problematic if the same will come to the market. Business for the season may be regarded as over so far as concerns new operations.

In their report for the week ended November 15 Messrs. Giraud state:—

The arrivals of sultanas are estimated at 37,000 tons, and the sales to date are put at 35,000 tons. Closing Prices: Per cwt. c.i.f. London-Liverpool. —Type 12, 48s.; 13, 55s.; 14, 59s.; 15, 63s.; 16, 70s.; 17, 77s. The sultana market is unchanged. Prices are very firm.

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Basrah, November 1.

There is still a strong demand from Egypt for Hillah dates, and there have been large arrivals from the region of Nejef. There has been a strong demand for sheep casings. Inquiries emanate from the United States.

Jaffa, November 8.

The first direct shipments of oranges to the United Kingdom commence next week. Certain small lots realised between 14s. and 15s. a case, which is very promising.

Mosul, November 8.

The cattle market is already quite active. Syrian merchants have begun to buy sheep.

Hamadan, October 18.

The market continues good for importers of Manchester and Indian cotton goods. The American demand for Hamadan and Sultanabad rugs and carpets continues strong, and exporters to Russia are making large purchases of dried fruits, rice, etc.

Cyprus, October 18.

The general tone of the markets is much brighter, owing to the increased demand and prices of produce, particularly carobs, raisins, and wine. The early rains are favourable to the growing crop.

Yugoslavia exported 384,596 tons of goods, valued at 937,368,216 dinars, in October, compared with 334,766 tons, valued at 914,013,910 dinars, in October, 1923.

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DRIED FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, in their report dated December 1 state :—

Currants.—It is doubtful if in living memory we have ever experienced a more disappointing November trading. The firmer tendency towards the close of last month, with indications of some improvement in the demand, failed to develop, and we have passed through an exceedingly anxious time. Buyers apparently had no confidence to operate pending a revival of interest, and day after day passed without a transaction being recorded. The position of the market, nevertheless, is considered very sound. The knowledge that the Greek Government has decided to purchase a further 15,000 tons, and the measure having passed the first and second reading in the Greek Chamber, has certainly given confidence to the shippers, and has been one of the main features in stabilising values. Therefore, as soon as demand shows more life, the market should be quickly affected.

The additional supplies of 3,000 tons, comprising really attractive qualities, per Dido, Belize, Etrib, Cressado, and Sekstant, failed to attract the trade, and the small and insignificant business passing mostly centred round the lower grades, viz., Pyrgos, 42s. ; cleaned, 43s. 6d. to 44s. Other sales were :—Cleaned Patras, 47s. to 48s. ; Gulf and Panariti, 50s. to 56s. ; and with the exception of Vostizza, which was forced for sale at 60s. to 62s., values show very little damage. Quotations :—Pyrgos, 42s. ; Amalias, 44s. to 45s. ; Patras, 45s. to 48s. ; Zante, 45s. to 48s. ; Gulf and Panariti, 50s. to 56s. ; Vostizza, 56s. to 64s.

Australian.—The Hurunui and Cornwall arrived with small consignments, and sales were reported at 42s. to 45s. up to 50s. for any parcels of special quality.

Sultanas.—Further supplies per Destro and Siptah replenished our meagre stock, only a small proportion of the 43,000 boxes being for the market, and notwithstanding the scarcity of good and fine fruit available, demand has shown a falling off during the past week, and for most grades prices have an easier tendency. Quotations :—Fair, 52s. to 54s. ; Medium to Good, 56s. to 70s. ; Fine, 75s. to 90s. Greeks in good request earlier in the month, 65s. to 75s., but at the moment are neglected. Cretans sold 80s. to 90s.

Figs.—Destro brought 560 skeleton cases. This article has been persistently pushed for sale, culminating in prices dropping about 15s. per cwt. to meet the lower rates established at London Auctions. At the decline considerable progress has been possible in large boxes at 47s. 6d. to 52s. 6d. ; small boxes being still difficult of sale, 60s. to 65s. Locoums are scarce, 100s. to 115s. Bags Naturals : Good, 33s. 6d. ; Genuine, 35s. 6d., slow ; Boxes Pulled, 42s. 6d. to 48s.

Viscount Inchcape, accompanied by Viscountess Inchcape, left London last week for Paris to attend the monthly meeting of the Suez Canal Company.

Mr. Thomas F. A. Agnew, who died recently at Heswell, Cheshire, in his 91st year, was formerly a partner in Messrs. Line and Co., Madras, and also acted as agent to the Madras Irrigation and Canal Co. He was elected a director of the Bank of Madras, and was a member of the local committee of the Agra Bank. During the Indian Mutiny Mr. Agnew joined the Madras Volunteer Cavalry.

NOTES FROM YUGOSLAVIA.*

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Zagreb, November 25.

The New Line in Yugoslavia.

On November 22 a new and important stretch of railway was opened to the public—the line from Ormoz to Murska Sobota, connecting the Slovene regions on both sides of the river Mur with the main railway system of the kingdom. At last direct traffic has become possible between this outlying north-western part of the country and its capital cities, Liubliana, Zagreb, and—most important, though farthest off—Belgrade. The Mur region was formerly part of Hungary, and, as such, scantily connected by rail only with Budapest and Vienna, but quite cut off from the other Yugoslav lands. The new stretch of line is especially important from the point of view of trade. As a grain-growing district the Mur district is second only to the Voivodina, which is one of the granaries of Europe. The vineyards around Liutomer and the quaintly named little town of Jeruzalem-Svetinye produce the finest of the Slovene white wines, topaz-coloured and with a bouquet resembling that of white Burgundy. Finally, a special breed of heavy carthorses, much valued throughout the Danubian States, is the pride of the wealthy farmers of those parts.

The people of the Muropolye and Prekmurye are descendants of the old Pannonian Slovenes, and differ somewhat in customs and national dress from their kinsmen in Styria and Carniola. Artistically, their songs are among the sweetest and most characteristic in Yugoslavia's native treasure hoard of folk melodies. (Every region in Yugoslavia has its own distinctive and altogether unmistakable local colour in folk music ; all of it is attractive, and the programmes of the various unaccompanied choirs in every sizable town, whose concerts are always welcome adjuncts to every public function, offer plenty of delightful opportunities to study the different types of song.) Truly, these old Pannonian lands are not among the least of the possessions of this young State, and it is an excellent thing that this new railway connection has now made them accessible, with all their wealth and their charm. The solemn opening ceremony was attended by M. Stanitch, Minister of Transport, and many notabilities from Belgrade, Zagreb, and Liubliana.

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* An article, by our Zagreb Correspondent, on Politics in Yugoslavia, appears on page 585.—ED.

Mr. L. G. Rouffin, C.M.G., formerly Financial Secretary to the Egyptian Government, has been appointed the British member of the International Financial Commission of Athens.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97 15/32
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	258-260
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	317-325
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	23.94-23.96
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 31/32-1.6 3/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	94.15-94.70
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	892-925
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	344-348,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5 31/32 1.6 3/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	840-850
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.61½-4.63¼
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	85.55-86.10
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	152½-154½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	106.35-106.60
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	630-640
Teheran	Krans to £	50	39½
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	325-330,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	24.00-24.20

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Irregular.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended November 20, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has been rather irregular; the net changes on the week are the following :—Sakellaridis : $2.80 up for November, $1.95 up for January, $1.85 up for March, $1.80 up for May, $1.10 up for November, 1925. Ashmouni : $0.30 down for December, $0.30 down for February, $0.20 down for April, $0.70 up for October, 1925. The demand from abroad has been rather good, and the consequent activity of the Spot market has given the Futures market a fairly firm tone. Sakel. has had the largest proportion of the demand, and its premium over Ashmouni has been increased during the week by over $2. The easier tone in Ashmouni may be attributed to the fact that New York has been quieter and somewhat weaker. November Sakellaridis has fluctuated in a most erratic way, its premium over January varying between $11½ and $3; the remaining open positions are now very small, commercial houses being the buyers against cotton remaining to be fixed by the native merchants. Ashmouni distant positions are now worth about the same price as December, but Sakel. distant positions are quoted with heavy discounts in comparison with January; despite the high prices of Sakel. cotton spinners abroad still continue to be keen buyers, and the daily arrivals are fairly easily absorbed by the demand. This year's Sakel supplies will be considerably smaller than those of last year, and a shortage of this variety during the summer months is likely to occur, so we recommend our spinner friends who must buy this cotton not to delay the covering of their requirements too long. The week's receipts amount to 428,384 krs., against exports 273,114 krs.; the stock stands at 1,765,424 krs.

Spot.—We have had a busy week at Minet el Bassal. A good business has been done, and sales amount to about 36,800 bales, of which we estimate 17,300 bales Sakellaridis, 7,200 bales Uppers, 10,900 bales Zagora, 1,000 bales Pilion, 150 bales Brown, and 250 bales White. Arrivals have been large, especially from Lower Egypt, but there has been a better demand from abroad, and this has been sufficient to maintain the spot market here.

Sakellarides.—There has been a brisk demand for all qualities except the very low grades. Prices of spot against contracts are well maintained at last week's rates, with an improving tendency in the better grades. Cotton is offered freely at market prices, but there is no tendency to press sales or depress premiums.

Uppers.—There has been a demand for all qualities. Spots premiums are firm at last week's rates, the better grades being inclined to go dearer.

Lower Egypt Zagora.—Continues in good request. Spot premiums are steady at last week's rates.

Pilion.—A good business has been done, but there is no longer the eager demand of the last few weeks. Spot premiums are firm at last week's rates for the better grades, but for the medium qualities they are slightly easier.

Brown.—A fair business has been done. Spot premiums are generally dearer than last week.

White.—A fair business has been done in medium and good grades. Spot premiums are generally easier except Fully Good, which is rather dearer.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Active Demand for Near East.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended November 29 states :—

It is not possible to record any expansion of business during the past week, and, on the whole, the market remains in the state of quietude recently reported. Certain sections continue to enjoy an active business, but, on the other hand, there are others which are almost in a state of stagnation. The only development of interest has been the result of the spinners' ballot, which gave a majority in favour of continuing short time in a modified form. As from December 1 the hours worked will be 39¼ per week, which is an increase of 7¼ hours on those which are being run at present. It is quite probable that had the more active conditions of a month or so ago continued, the vote would have been in favour of full time, but the recent falling away of demand has reminded spinners that trade is still far from being normal.

Yarn.—The result of the ballot above referred to was practically without effect. The tone throughout the week has been subdued, and the individual experiences of spinners of American cotton have varied considerably. Egyptian spinnings still remain under the disturbing influence of high prices for the raw material. Good orders have been placed from Germany, presumably with the object of obtaining supplies before the new tariff comes into effect in that country.

Cloth.—Only a fair inquiry has been experienced. India and China both remain lookers on, comparatively speaking, and the activity of other markets does not by any means fully compensate. Egypt, in spite of political disturbances, continues to make good purchases, whilst other Near Eastern markets have also been fairly active.

Raw Cotton.—Nothing of special interest has transpired, and fluctuations in American have been within narrow limits. This arises more from an absence of active trading than from confidence in the stability of present prices. The position as regards Egyptian cotton still remains difficult. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows :—American middling, 13.59; Egyptian fully good fair, 26.20.

The production of crude oil by the British Burmah Company and the Rangoon Oil Company for October was 61,361 barrels.

The quantity of gold extracted from the mines in India during August amounted to 37,013 oz., valued at Rs. 21,30,814.

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LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Decline in Inquiry.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended November 26 : —

Egyptian Spot.—There is little fresh to report this week. The daily inquiry has shown signs of dwindling, and the volume of spot business transacted has shrunk considerably. The large forwardings to which we have previously drawn attention have evidently provided spinners with enough cotton to carry on with for the time being, and with quieter conditions ruling in Manchester there has been no inducement to spinners to come into the market, except on a very small scale. There is no longer evident the anxiety which was recently shown to secure cotton "landing" or "close at hand." The strength of Alexandria continues to surprise most people. On this side we expect a somewhat quiet period to ensue between now and the end of the year, but as long as Alexandria maintains such a strong front, it is difficult to foresee any important break in values here. There is no doubt that a number of Sakel spinners have temporarily deserted this growth for others, but the available stock of Sakel here at present is so small that the defection has hardly become noticeable as yet. A fair selection of so-called good to fine Sakel is available here now, but much of it is of only moderate staple.

The fully good fair cotton has been in better request, but supplies are still wanting, and good staple cotton is rare. About 26.00d. is the value of fully good fair here to-day, but many spinners apparently expect to find it between 24.00d. and 25.00d. Low cotton has met with a moderate inquiry. Uppers between 16.00d. and 17.00d. have been inquired for, with but little offering to meet the inquiry. Fully good fair to good uppers between 17.50d. and 18.00d. have met with a fair amount of support. The interest in Pilion has subsided for the time being, chiefly, we fancy, owing to the prices asked. Brown and white cottons have been neglected. In Sudan the white variety still continues to claim the bulk of the small business transacted, and up to 550 on American has been paid for special lots. Sudan Sakel has changed hands in the neighbourhood of 24.00d. per lb. C.i.f. business has been quiet on the whole, but here and there have been signs of a revival of interest in cotton for prompt shipment. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 21st inst. were returned as 13,066 bales. Estimated sales, 1,000 bales Egyptian and 500 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakel are unchanged for fully good fair and below, but a rise of 30 points has been registered for the qualities good and above. Brown and upper show no change on the week.

Vickers, Ltd., Barrow-in-Furness, have received an important order for washing trommels for the Rand.

Sir Robert Horne, M.P. (chairman of the National Smelting Company), left London on November 27 en route to India and Burma.

The traffic receipts of the South Indian Railway Company for the week ended November 1 amounted to Rs.8,26,165, making the total from April 1 Rs. 2,90,03,951.

A Bulgarian report states that the export of tobacco is in full swing, and that large quantities of the 1923 crop are sold. Prices are higher by 10 levas per kilo on the average, according to quality.

The numbers are announced of 39 Seven per Cent. First Mortgage Bonds of the Bengal Telephone Corporation, amounting to £3,900, which have been drawn for redemption and will be paid off at par on December 31.

On his election as a Member of Parliament, Mr. R. Roy Wilson has sent in his resignation as assistant-general manager of the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., and the directors have accepted it with great regret.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Phœnix Oil and Transport.

The report of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Company states that the production of crude oil for 1923 was 105,259 tons, as compared with 42,106 tons in the previous year. The beneficial effect of the vigorous drilling programme is already manifesting itself on the fortunes of the company, as is indicated by the fact that production has been very materially increased during the present year, amounting for the ten months ended October 31 to 145,197 tons. It is anticipated that for the whole of the current year the production will be approximately 185,000 tons.

The Chairman in May last made a visit of inspection to the properties in Roumania, and a short report was issued to the shareholders on the observations he was able to make on his return. The progress then indicated has been well maintained, 29 wells having been drilled down to the oil sand since the date of the previous annual report, and it is expected that by the end of the current year the full programme of 30 new wells will have been completed. Notwithstanding the fact that 29 wells have been brought in since the date of the previous report, there are at the present time in hand 68 wells, as compared with 59 in the previous year, and, as heretofore, all these wells are in proven oil-bearing territories.

Satisfactory operations have continued at Moreni-Stavropoleos, and the sanding-up difficulties peculiar to this field have been mainly overcome. As a result the producing wells have given a relatively steady output, and the anticipated large increase in production has been realised. Of the seven wells at Moreni-Tuicani mentioned in the previous report as in drilling, three have been brought into production, and the results are commensurate with expectations in this prolific field. Operations in the Tintea field continue on a large scale. Well No. 71 has on several occasions produced large quantities of oil, and although it has not come permanently into production continues to warrant most favourable anticipations. Of the 12 wells mentioned in the previous report as being drilled on this area eight have come into production.

The Gura Ocnitei field has achieved prominence in the company's programme owing to the success of well No. 4, which entered the oil sand in May last, and to date has produced a large quantity of oil, which would have been much exceeded had it not been temporarily stopped, due to the loss of a cleaning tool in the well. It is expected to resume production at any moment. Additional wells have been started in this district, and operations on a very extended scale will be carried out during the coming year. The results obtained from well No. 4 at Gura Ocnitei have proved a very large area in that district, and in other directions the reserve lands continue to inspire the confidence previously expressed.

It is anticipated that the new Roumanian mining law will produce results favourable to the company in regard to the State lands. The Austrian market appeared so advantageous that during 1924 the company acquired on favourable terms the old-established business of Everth and Co., A.G., of Vienna, and is now actively utilising that organisation for the distribution of its products. In addition, a favourable agreement has been concluded with an influential group for dealing with the company's products in Southern Germany. The accounts show a net profit of £77,861, making available £105,654, which the directors propose to carry forward, subject to taxation.

National Bank of Egypt.

Position at September 30, 1924, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.—Banking Department.—Liabilities: Share capital, £E2,925,000 (300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each). Reserve Fund: Statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E804,375; current, deposit and other accounts, £E13,770,920; Egyptian Government, £E12,987,253; Sudan Government, £E280,154; Mixed Tribunals, £E1,465,553; bankers' accounts, £E845,471; cheques and bills payable, £E464,676; sundry other accounts, £E916,918; total, £E35,952,820. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E19,883,552; sundry securities, £E255,419; advances on merchandise, £E1,039,187; advances on securities, £E2,290,083; advances otherwise secured, £E439,484; sundry other advances, £E1,185,506; bills of exchange, £E2,160,548; local bills discounted, £E327,661; buildings and furniture, £E278,312; money at call and at short notice, £E892,125; bankers' accounts, £E4,293,955; sundry other accounts, £E374,860. Cash: Notes, £E2,110,044; gold, £E20,130; silver, nickel, etc., £E401,954—£E2,532,128; total, £E35,952,820. Issue Department.—Notes issued, £E34,700,000; total, £E34,700,000; gold, £E3,339,576 · *British Treasury bills, £E14,010,424—£E17,350,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £420,576; British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds, £E16,929,424—£E17,350,000; total, £E34,700,000. (*By authority of the Egyptian Government, these Treasury bills are deposited in lieu of gold (see "Journal Officiel" of October 30, 1916).

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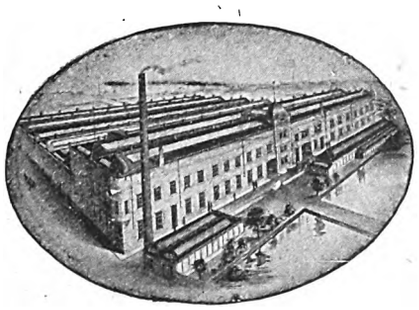
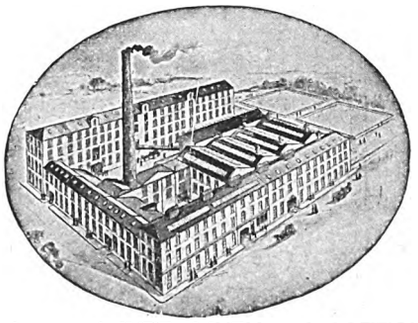
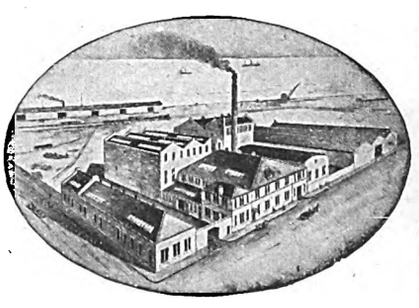

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A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt, and the Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

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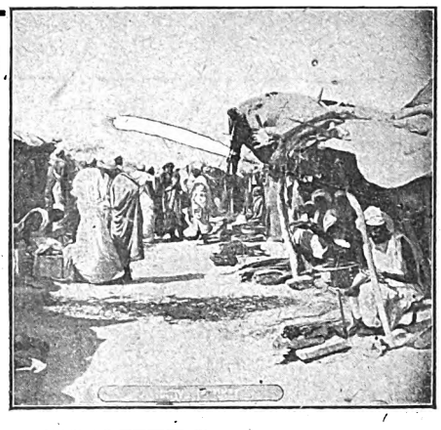

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 709—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Britain and Egypt.

In the plainest possible way Great Britain has announced her intention of allowing no one to intervene in any of the four questions which she reserved for discussion when she granted independence to Egypt in February, 1922. In a Note from the Foreign Office to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, dated November 19, that is, before the assassination of General Sir Lee Stack, the Government laid down in unmistakable terms the decision that Egypt is an imperial or domestic question, to be discussed by no other Power. To some extent this Note has cleared the air, although it will be easier to write of Britain's precise attitude towards the League of Nations after Mr. Austen Chamberlain's wisely undertaken visit to Rome. At least it shows that the murder of the Sirdar was the sign for, and not the cause of, a tightening up of the screws, and it fully acquits the Government of the charge of hastily preparing its measures. Exactly how positive and constructive those measures are to be cannot yet be perceived, for until the Cairo Assembly meets again or fresh elections are held, the strength or the puppetry of the Ziwar Administration cannot really be estimated. It is something, at any rate, to have put oneself square, if not right, with the rest of the world over this delicate question of Egypt.

Political Manœuvring in Egypt.

Too much attention need not be paid to the petitions, and the Egyptian Premier's answers to them, that the Zaghloulist Party has addressed to King Fuad. It is, indeed, quite improbable that the Ziwar Administration can rightly be accused of unconstitutional practice, although the tendency among Egyptian Nationalists at present to confuse the unusual with the unconstitutional is comprehensible enough. All this petitioning and definition of legal niceties is, so to speak, political sparring for position, and it is not in the least probable that by means of it the heavy-weight Zaghloulists will defeat their bantam opponents. The really important matter is: What will happen to the Ziwar Administration when the Assembly is re-convoked or when fresh elections are held. The fundamental point at issue is not one of law, but of opinion.

The Sudan Mutiny.

Much history is enshrouded in the terse official words which were issued, concerning the recent mutiny of two Sudanese platoons, from Khartoum on December 5:—"Three officers were shot at dawn this morning." Whether, as is to be profoundly hoped, these words will remain unique in the record of Britain's co-operation in the Sudan, or whether they are the forerunners of other similar descriptions, are secrets in the keeping of to-morrow. At the moment all is well in the Sudan. The Egyptian troops have all been evacuated, and King Fuad has approved the wise appointment of Sir Geoffrey Archer to be Governor-General. It is gratifying to note that the new Governor-General's knowledge of and experience in Abyssinia and in Uganda will prove of immense importance in his future dealings with the question of the Nile Waters. This appointment, incidentally, made as it was by decree of the King of Egypt in accordance with the terms of the 1899 Agreement, should reassure those nervous souls which imagined that Great Britain was acting unconstitutionally in the Sudan. The dignity of Egypt is preserved through the reference to her King, and legally the position in the Sudan has in no way been altered.

France and Syria.

When General Weygand left Beyrout on December 5 for France, he cannot have looked back upon the progress of Syria under his régime without a certain satisfaction. For, as is shown in M. Henri Simon's recently published report on the Budget for the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the reduction of French expenditure on Syria has been most marked. In 1919, when France assumed the Mandate for Syria, her military expenditure amounted to 118,000,000 francs. Owing to the activities of the Turks and of the Arabs, this expenditure rose in 1921 to 748,000,000 francs. Peace having been established with the Turks and an understanding arrived at with the

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Arabs, this expenditure fell in 1923 to 210,000,000 francs. Whether it will be possible to make a serious reduction upon this remains to be seen: the attitude of the French peasant at home does not coincide with that of the French soldier guarding Syria's very precarious northern frontier. On the civil side, expenditure in 1919 was 50,000,000 francs; in 1921, 185,000,000 francs; and in 1923, 9,080,000 francs. This represents a very definite achievement. And far greater, although it has not so far produced many tangible, concrete results, is the concord which the departing French High Commissioner succeeded in establishing with the British authorities in Palestine.

America and Palestine.

A certain amount of difficulty has been caused, from the point of view of American nationals in the Middle East, from the fact that the United States is not a member of the League of Nations. Certainly we have long been out of those feverish periods when, as in early 1919, for example, an American prospector could be hustled out of the Jordan Valley, but neither in Syria nor in Palestine was the position very satisfactory. In getting it regularised, Syria was ahead of Palestine, for the French-American agreement which was signed at Paris on April 4 last was ratified on July 13. On December 4 the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the United States Ambassador in London signed a Convention with respect to the rights of Britain and of America in Palestine, and the Convention is, of course, subject to ratification on both sides.

Caution in Greece.

It was pleasing to read, just before the publication of the prospectus of the Greek Loan, of a sound piece of political conduct in the Athens Assembly. It will be remembered that one of the favourite schemes of M. Papanastassiou, a somewhat headstrong politician, was the immediate creation of a Provisional Senate. There was, of course, something to be said for such an institution, but in rejecting the proposal the Assembly has done wisely. The Constitution has not yet been discussed, and there will be plenty of time after this all-important task has been accomplished to discuss the desirability of a permanent Second Chamber. Now that Greece is more or less committed to stability, it would not be surprising to find her next year in possession of a Senate. But for the moment caution is rightly the order of the day in Athens.

Suspense in Arabia.

The situation in Arabia has, to all appearances, at least, come to a standstill. Reports occasionally are published, it is true, concerning the progress of Ibn Saoud's plan for convoking a general Islamic Congress at Mecca, and of Ali's plan for resuming the offensive against the Wahhabis. Thus Ibn Saoud is stated to have arrived in the Holy City from Riyadh, and Ali to be collecting aeroplanes and even tanks. Three ex-R.A.F. pilots are said to be on their way to Jeddah (whither aeroplanes have preceded them), in the purpose of assisting the Hejaz "Army." But whether there is in the Hejaz any pugnacious spirit surviving must be extremely doubtful, and the obscurity surrounding Wahhabi intentions thus becomes denser than ever. From the rest of the Moslem world little enough sign has come that it believes heartily in Ibn Saoud's expressed resolve to submit his future actions for general Islamic approval, even though the projected Islamic Conference in Cairo for 1925 is now more problematical than before. It does not seem probable that the arrival of three British air pilots in Jeddah will relieve this uncanny suspense.

TO READERS OF "THE NEAR EAST."

If you find any merit in "The Near East," if you hold with us that British interests in the Near and Middle East call for a Paper devoted exclusively to the affairs of that part of the world; if you consider it a worthy cause that Britain and the British should be sanely interpreted to the people of the East, and those people in their turn be made better known to Britons, support "The Near East" by becoming a subscriber yourself if you are not already, and by securing for us new subscribers. Specimen copies will be forwarded gratis. A subscription form will be found on page 624 of this issue.

INDIA.

The Reforms Inquiry.

The cabled forecasts of the report of the Committee inquiring into the working of the reformed Constitution accord very closely with the anticipations formed in this country. We confess that we have so far failed to understand the policy adopted in regard to this inquiry. To begin with, a small body of experts was chosen to examine the difficulties found in the practical working of the new institutions, and then the experts were reinforced—or, rather, diluted—by politicians already pledged to condemn those institutions as unworkable. To the ordinary man this procedure resembles the addition of professional undertakers to a consultation of Harley Street specialists, and consequently he is not surprised when the specialists in due course offer their prescriptions for the patients' health, while the undertakers press merely for his funeral. What is wanted now is to get the whole thing out of the way as soon as possible, and we hope that neither Delhi nor Whitehall will waste time in looking for a formula of the type so fashionable in India. The Constitution should be given a fair chance, with the elimination of friction wherever possible, and, if there must be a funeral, we should ourselves prefer to bury the undertakers.

The Lee Commission.

At last the India Office has issued its decision on the main recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Public Services, and it may fairly be said that the compromise reached by the Commissioners emerges practically unscathed from the scrutiny of two very different Secretaries of State, for the changes announced which affect the position of only a few officers at the top of the list do not materially disturb the balance between better terms for Europeans now employed, and largely increased recruitment of Indians in the near future. The decision to make the new concessions to officers appointed in England independent of the votes of Indian Legislatures will no doubt excite violent protests among the politicians who have rendered it inevitable by their votes and speeches in the past; but that is an inconvenience which must be faced, and we do not expect that it will develop into a perennial "grievance," though there is certain to be much strong language in the coming Budget debates. The most important subject now outstanding is the creation of the permanent Public Service Commission, which is already several years overdue. Until that body is at work, it is hopeless to look for the clear delimitation between the spheres of politics and administration which is essential to the success of the new régime.

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Publicity Through Secrecy.

It is not, however, questions of politics or administration, important as they are, which have brought India so prominently before the public in this country of late, but the investigation of some very unsavoury transactions which have recently occupied the Law Courts, and apparently will continue to do so for some time to come. We have no doubt that the India Office was actuated by the best intentions in its attempt to conceal the name of the victim of these transactions, but the result has unfortunately been to secure the widest possible publicity. First came the portentous references in Court to the dangers of disclosure, which set all the quidnuncs chattering at once, and for a day or two there was eager canvassing of the personality of every Asiatic potentate living between Jericho and Johore. Then the foreign Press rent the veil, and the secret passed from mouth to ear with all the inaccuracies and accretions natural to that mode of transmission. At best the India Office "released" what was no longer a secret, and we had portraits on posters, interviews with ex-butlers, and all the rest of it. The moral of a most unpleasant business is simply that such a secret is like a tooth : when it must come out sooner or later, the way to save pain is to have it out at once.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Parliamentary Affairs.

Parliament has met, the House of Commons has re-elected Mr. Speaker Whitley, members have taken the oath of allegiance to our Sovereign Lord the King, and have chosen their seats for the next session. The real business begins to-day with the King's Speech, which will be followed by the Address, and a debate on home and foreign affairs.

The King's Speech has, however, to some extent been anticipated by Mr. Baldwin, who addressed the victorious Conservatives at the Albert Hall last week. He spoke in no mood of triumph over a fallen foe, but as one who feels deeply responsible for the power that has been placed in his hands. And he made it clear that his Government intends to carry through a housing policy that will not merely build new houses, but will attempt to abolish slums; that it will not merely fill up odd gaps in the existing State insurance laws, but do its best to add to them by lowering the pensionable age and providing pensions for widows and young children; in short, that it means business in its social policy.

One sentence in particular in Mr. Baldwin's speech drew the attention of the whole country. "Do not ever mistake the voice of the clubman or the voice of the pressman for the voice of the country. It is the country that has chosen you, and the country that will judge you." This is perhaps a little hard on Fleet Street, but its underlying meaning is clear: the opinion of London is not necessarily the opinion of the country. The newspapers and the clubs are apt to become so interested in personal incidents of the game of politics that they lose sight of the field on which it is played.

The Two Oppositions.

Political cynics think it probable that the two Oppositions will be more ready to fight each other than the Government. But the possibilities are not confined to a feud between Liberal and Labour; it is understood that there is something of a rift in the Labour ranks, and the Liberals, or what remains of that unhappy family, are advertising the differences of Tweedledum and Tweedledee far and wide. Mr. Lloyd George has been elected, in the absence of Mr. Asquith, acting leader of the Liberal Party, but two or three Liberals, including Captain Wedgwood Benn, have mentioned in print their reluctance to follow him, and they will presumably form a party all to themselves.

At the same time, while Mr. Ramsay MacDonald has been re-elected leader of the Labour Party, some very outspoken criticism of his methods was indulged in by his followers, and he is not likely to find his post a bed of roses. The discontent comes mainly from the extremists, but the moderates in the party are also not too happy at the position. They recognise his purely intellectual abilities, but they object to the economy of truth which he practised during his election campaign and, it must be added, during his term in office. The whole Labour Party hates the very mention of the word Daimler.

On the whole, I do not think the Government has much to fear from its opponents in 1925.

Protecting Ministers.

The *Daily Mail* published last week news of a plot by Egyptians to assassinate British Cabinet Ministers. The information was authentic, and precautions were at once taken—or, rather, increased, for, in fact, the safety of Ministers has for many years been in the charge of Scotland Yard. During the Sinn Fein troubles under the Coalition Government gates and barriers were put up at Downing Street, but these were taken down under a subsequent Administration, only the ordinary routine precautions being continued.

As a rule, a private detective follows a Minister about at some little distance, like a faithful private secretary, and some curious stories are told in this connection. It used to be said that Mr. Birrell, as Irish Secretary, displayed a Puck-like propensity for tricking his own detective, and that he would dash through the subterranean passage at Westminster and into the Underground Railway, and board the first incoming train in the hope that his protector, a few yards behind, would be held up at the booking-office or the barrier, miss his quarry, and have to follow ingloriously by the next train.

Both Lord Balfour and Mr. Bonar Law, on the other hand, were loftily indifferent to any danger: but another great Minister, who shall be nameless, is said to have been rather disturbed at the rumour—it was nothing more—that a price had been set on his head. But perhaps this was merely the malicious gossip of his enemies.

European Debts and U.S.A.

Some disquiet is being shown at the possibility that France may be allowed to settle her debt to the United States on more favourable terms than Washington granted to Britain. The argument which has been advanced in favour of this course by some French and an occasional American politician is that France is financially less strong than Britain, and that since her credit is not so good she must be granted more favourable terms.

This sounds specious and even complimentary to ourselves until it is examined. But the fact is that there is a clause in the British Debt settlement with the United States by which America agrees not to settle the debts of other Allied countries on more favourable terms than those agreed last year with Britain, and a breach on this point would cause a great deal of feeling, not only in Britain but in America. And, further, the theory

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that the terms of a settlement can be varied according to the status of the debtor, although occasionally adopted perforce in bankruptcy proceedings, is obviously destructive of ordinary debtor and credit relationships.

It is understood that the British Government intends to protest vigorously against this idea, if it should ever come within range of practical politics. Probably the main reason why it has been suggested is the fact that France wants to raise money in America, whereas we do not. On that account a certain number of American investors may believe it sound policy to write down the French indebtedness, as it would leave more for themselves in their private enterprise. With us this consideration does not arise.

A Railway Strike?

There have been mutterings and threatenings of another railway strike early in the New Year, consequent on the revision of the engine-drivers' terms which was arranged (with a year's notice) after the strike of last January. Luckily, Mr. Thomas, now returned from the Colonial Office to the National Union of Railwaymen, has set his face against another stoppage of traffic. He recognises that these things are no good to the railwaymen, that both the companies and the employees suffer from the loss of traffic, and that it is not sound policy to exasperate the public unnecessarily. There is plenty of time for negotiations, as the agreement does not expire until January, and with a conciliatory temper on both sides we may hope for the best.

A Women's Orchestra.

Last week I heard for the first time the British Women's Symphony Orchestra. It was composed entirely of ladies, the only man allowed on the concert platform being M. Cortot, the famous pianist. It would, I think, have been a good idea to have preserved the feminist atmosphere by having a woman at the piano—and also playing nothing but women's compositions, instead of which we had Brahms, Saint-Saëns, and Weber, who were indubitably of the less important sex.

The ladies acquitted themselves creditably, but the strings were far better than the wood-wind, and of the brass the less said the better. Sex, I admit, has no place in art. But somehow a woman does not loom so well behind a trumpet as behind a violin.

Troubles in the Theatre.

Mr. Arnold Bennett has caused something of a storm in the theatrical tea-cup by an article in which he says that only three good plays have been produced in the last two hundred years, and that actors and actresses do not know how to act or to speak their own language. As to the first point, he is impregnable; if a good play be interpreted as one that can be continually revived, then nothing good has been written since Sheridan. But I suppose a play is not necessarily rubbish because it does not survive the centuries.

As to the second point, I entirely agree that very few actors and actresses can talk good English. Unfortunately, it must in common fairness be added that the audience are in very much the same boat; even in the pulpit, I am told, one sometimes hears slipshod English from the ornaments of the Church, and, moreover, it is notorious that the clergy are deficient in the art of voice-production. But if we are to be thus critical, who would 'scape whipping? A master printer of my acquaintance once told me that he never knew an author who could spell his own language, and that most journalists relied on the printer to correct those grammatical blunders which can be excused only on the ground of haste.

TERTIUM QUID.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Mr. V. J. Patel, the President of the Bombay Municipal Council, has resigned.

M. Albert Thomas, Director of the International Labour Office, arrived in Belgrade on December 5 from Sofia, and left for Paris last Monday.

Sir William Manning, Governor of Ceylon, is expected to leave Colombo at about the end of March, for England on leave, prior to his retirement.

The Greek Government has transmitted its thanks to the British Government for the latter's moral support in the issue of the Greek refugee loan.

Mr. F. J. Devar, Scout Master of the 12th Bombay Scout troop, who is making a world tour on his bicycle, expects to reach London at the beginning of January.

Mr. R. Coupland, M.A., Fellow of All Souls, has been appointed a Delegation for Superintending the Instruction of India Civil Service Candidates at Oxford University.

A Danish Egyptologist has identified a bust of an ancient Egyptian, which has for many years been in the New Glyptothek in Copenhagen, as that of King Tutankhamen.

Mr. Charles Howland, a well-known New York barrister who has been actively engaged on reconstruction work in the Near East since the War, has succeeded Mr. Henry Morgenthau as President of the Greek Settlement Commission.

Owing to ill-health Mr. J. P. Thompson, the Political Secretary to the Government of India, is about to take four months' leave. The Viceroy has appointed Lieutenant-Colonel S. B. Agnew Patterson, Resident at Jaipur, to act during Mr. Thompson's absence.

Two recent attempts to smuggle arms into Calcutta have been detected by the Customs. The automatic pistols seized on these occasions were of German manufacture and of the same type as those used in the murder of the Sankaritolla postmaster and of Mr. Ernest Day.

Mr. Harry Dayton, American Vice-Consul at Belgrade, was severely wounded last Thursday by a young Lithuanian woman who fired three revolver shots into the back of his neck. She then committed suicide by opening the veins of her forearm. He, too, has since died.

It is reported that three British airmen, whose names are given as McIntosh, Wigglesworth, and King, are proceeding to Jeddah to fly in the service of King Ali. Mr. McIntosh is well known on Continental air routes. All three are said to be engaged on six months' contracts.

The will of Colonel Arthur Grey, C.I.E., late Punjab Light Horse, of Roland Gardens, Kensington, S.W., barrister, late of the Inner Temple, E.C., and of Lahore, Punjab, India, who was called to the Bar in 1886, practising before the Punjab Chief Court (net personalty £3,707), has been proved at £3,881.

General Weygand, the outgoing French High Commissioner for Syria, left Beyrout last Friday for Franca. Crowds assembled to bid him farewell, including Moslem and Christian deputations from all parts of Syria, and he was carried shoulder high for a great part of the way from the Residency to the quay.

It is announced in Belgrade that the Venice Conference is to be wound up as soon as possible, and it is expected that all outstanding questions between Italy and Yugoslavia will be reserved for discussion when M. Nintchitch, the Foreign Minister, meets Signor Mussolini in Rome during the meeting of the League of Nations.

At Brooklyn Museum workmen were hoisting into position a large marble bas-relief, "The Maiden of Kossovo," by the Serbian sculptor Ivan Mestrovitch, when the stature, which was valued at £10,000, fell to the ground and was broken into four pieces. It is believed, however, that it can be repaired. The statue had been borrowed from the Yugoslav Government.

Mr. Campbell Thompson (78), M.Inst.C.E., of Ivy Chimneys, Mount Sion, Tunbridge Wells, formerly of the India Railway service (net personalty £1,301), left £1,379.

Fra. Raphael Raditch was consecrated last Sunday in Belgrade by Mgr. Pellegrinetti, Papal Nuncio to Yugoslavia, as the first Latin Archbishop of that city. The new prelate, who is a Franciscan Friar, speaks both Serbo-Croat and Slovene.

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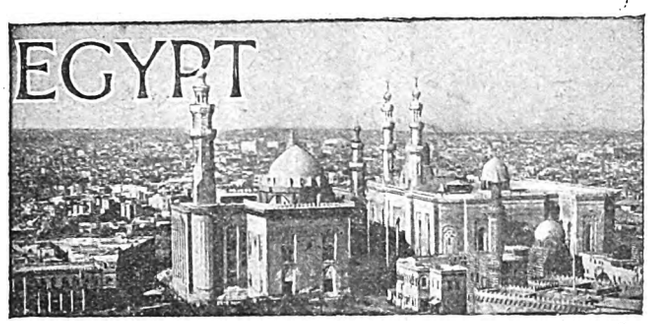
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, November 29.

The General Situation.

The situation in Egypt remains very critical. The reply to the ultimatum delivered by Lord Allenby on the day I wrote my last letter having proved unsatisfactory—since the Zaghloulist Cabinet accepted only four out of the seven demands of the British Government—instructions were given to the military authorities to occupy the Alexandria Customs. This was followed by the immediate resignation of Zaghloul Pasha on the ground that his retirement might facilitate a settlement, and at any rate prevent an aggravation of the situation. Within twenty-four hours he was succeeded by Ahmed Ziwar Pasha.

The new Cabinet is having by no means an easy time. The announcement of its formation was generally well received, but this was due more to the sympathetic personality of its president than to confidence in its members, all of whom are newcomers to Cabinet rank, and most of whom are unknown. Its first task, and the one on which it is still occupied, has been to arrive at a settlement which will enable it to accept the British demands and secure the removal of the occupation of the Alexandria Customs.

The points at issue are the recognition of the powers and privileges of the Financial and Judicial Advisers and the status and attributions of the Director-General of the European Section of the Department of Public Security, to whose recommendations upon matters falling within his sphere the Government must give due weight; and the revision of the rules and conditions governing the service, discipline and retirement of foreign officials.

The Arrests.

While the Cabinet was in the midst of its deliberations on these questions there came the arrest by the British military authorities of Mahmud Nekrashi Effendi, Under-Secretary of State for the Interior (appointed by Zaghloul Pasha), whose dismissal had been one of the first acts of the new Cabinet; William Makram Ebeid Effendi, a Deputy, who has throughout preached active hostility to the British; and Abdul Rahman Fahmy Bey, another Deputy who has gained notoriety, first, owing to the sentence to death passed on him by a Military Court in 1920 for organising murders of British officers and officials, and, secondly, owing to his recent assumption of the leadership of the Egyptian Labour movement.

These arrests were operated by the military authorities for very special reasons. Information had been received of a conspiracy against very high British officials. This information indicated that at any moment an outrage might be attempted. The three men in question had long been regarded as the prime-movers and possibly the organisers of the outrages committed of recent years. There was reason to believe, from their recent activities, that they were not unconnected with this conspiracy, and possibly with the Stack assassination. They were known to exercise considerable influence over the element from which the gang of assassins was certainly drawn. It was eminently desirable, in fact imperative, not only as a precaution, but also to permit of the investigation being able to prosecute its inquiry without interference, that they should be put under restraint. It was doubtful, in the light of past experience, whether the Egyptian authorities would carry out their arrest in the manner which the situation demanded, and so, although their intervention would be, to say the least of it, arbitrary, it was agreed that, to avoid any risk, their arrest should be made by the military authorities.

As soon as the news of the arrest became known the Cabinet felt compelled to take action. It made representations to the Residency, and on its undertaking to deal with these three men according to Egyptian law, they were handed over to the custody of the Egyptian Government. Next day, as a complementary measure, the Government itself effected the arrest of thirty-five persons implicated in one way or another in the investigations, among them four more Deputies.

The arrest of these six Deputies raised an outcry in the Zaghloulist and Opposition Press on the ground that this was a violation of the Parliamentary privilege they enjoyed under the Constitution. To this it was objected that as the King had suspended Parliament for a month their immunity likewise became suspended, and the question is at the moment of writing being argued before the committing magistrate.

Egyptian Troops and the Sudan.

Another incident that happened during the week also added to the troubles of the Cabinet. This was the order sent by the Minister of War to the Egyptian troops in the Sudan to obey the Governor-General and peaceably to allow themselves to be repatriated to Egypt. One of the conditions of the ultimatum had been that all the Egyptian

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officers and Egyptian units in the Sudan should be evacuated, and as the Egyptian Government had refused to agree to this, the British Government had sent instructions to the Sudan Government to execute the evacuation. The artillery at Khartoum, however, refused to budge, and telegraphed the Egyptian Government that it was going to resist. Realising that useless bloodshed would ensue, the Cabinet authorised the Minister of War to send a special messenger to Khartoum with a message to the Egyptian troops to the effect that they must submit to being repatriated.

Press Criticism.

All these incidents have been seized upon by the Zaghloulist and Opposition Press as an excuse for attacking the Cabinet. The criticism levelled at Ziwar Pasha and his colleague is, to say the least of it, unfair and unjust, and particularly does this apply to the Zaghloulists. The latter admittedly retired from government so as not to aggravate the situation, but simultaneously they have, in fact, not left one stone unturned to render impossible the settlement which they know is absolutely essential to the welfare of their country. They certainly did not display any patriotism when they forsook the helm at one of the most critical moments their country has experienced during the past forty-two years, and the manner in which they are assailing those who have intervened in order to steer the ship of State into a safe harbour merely serves to confirm the impression that one has always had that Zaghloulism is the antonym of patriotism.

Ziwar Pasha and his colleagues are certainly faced with an exceedingly difficult position. Whether they will succeed in weathering the storm it is impossible to foresee. If, unfortunately, they should fail, the catastrophe which will follow will clearly be one of their making, but they will have, at any rate, made a sincere and courageous effort to save the situation, and so will have a claim on their country's gratitude which the Zaghloulists, on the other hand, have forfeited.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, December 3.

Distinguished Visitors.

Bulgaria has been entertaining several well-known foreign politicians and statesmen. Foremost amongst them is M. Albert Thomas, Director-in-Chief of the International Labour Office. M. Thomas, who was Minister of Munitions in France during the War, came to Sofia at the invitation of the Government in order to study labour and social problems at close quarters. It is well known that Bulgaria has always been foremost in adhering to the various covenants passed by the International Labour Office, and for this reason, if for no other, M. Thomas was a welcome visitor.

It is understood that M. Thomas also manifested great interest in the problem of Macedonian refugees, which has of late been causing serious embarrassment to both the Bulgarian and Greek Governments. These unhappy people continue to cross from Greece into Bulgaria and *vice versa*, and as severe winter weather prevails their condition is most serious. Another visitor has been the French Senator Reynauld, who occupies the position of Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the French Senate. M. Reynauld made an exhaustive tour of Bulgaria, and gave two lectures; one on "The Work of the Fifth Assembly of the League of Nations" and one on "The Pacific Aims of France." Both lectures attracted crowded audiences, H.M. the King being present.

Congress of Reserve Officers.

This Congress was held last week and broke up, it is understood, under most satisfactory auspices. The reserve officers, of course, are a most important factor in Bulgarian affairs. Their influence is great, and it was they who stage-managed the *coup d'état* which overthrew the Stambolisky Government in June, 1923. At their recent Congress it is said that the mass of those present were, however, opposed to any immixing of officers in political matters. It was decided that while the League should keep a careful eye open for any intrigues on the part of the subversive elements amongst the Agrarians and Communists, its main duty must be to support the Government without in any way interfering with it.

PERSIA.

Teheran, November 8.

The Imbrie Murder.

Two more executions, making three in all, in connection with Major Imbrie's murder took place last Sunday, when two of the ringleaders in the attack were shot, one of them being the Seyed, who had more than anyone else incited the crowd to commit the murder by shouting out the ridiculous and, of course, false accusation that the water in the drinking-fountain had been poisoned. It was, however, only with the utmost difficulty that the American Chargé d'Affaires was able to have the executions carried out, for it was well known that the Persian Government was very averse from imposing the death penalty on the prisoners, and was doing its best to avoid doing so. The Chargé d'Affaires was informed that the accused men had been sentenced to imprisonment for life and would not be executed, whereupon Mr. Murray delivered a stiff Note to the Government, amounting practically to an ultimatum, to the effect that if the executions did not take place within sixty hours, diplomatic relations between the two Governments would be endangered. In fact, so serious did matters look that the new American Consul and his wife, who had reached Kazvin on their way to take the murdered Consul's place, received instructions from their Legation here not to proceed further, and accordingly returned to

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Hamadan on their way back to Smyrna. The Persian Government ultimately gave in, and the executions took place in the presence of representatives of the American Legation, Mr. Murray himself examining the prisoners to satisfy himself that the guilty ones did not escape and that no substitutions should be made at the last minute. The firing-party consisted of 200 men, so it is not astonishing that the victims' bodies were literally riddled with bullets.

The Situation in Arabistan.

Relations between the Sheikh of Mohammerah and the Central Government have for some months past been very strained, and shortly after Sardar Sepah assumed the Premiership Sheikh Khazal telegraphed to the Mejliss that, though loyal to the Shah, he did not recognise the present Government under Sardar Sepah, to which the President of the Parliament replied that the latter's Cabinet as at present constituted had the full confidence and support of the National Assembly, and anyone not recognising it must be treated as a rebel. Negotiations have, however, been carried on, and still continue, between the Sheikh and the Government, and it is hoped that the former will be induced to abandon his defiant attitude, and that the negotiations will result in peace being restored between the two parties and the possibility of open warfare thus avoided. As a precautionary measure, however, the Minister of War dispatched from here to Ispahan a fortnight ago a force of some 1,800 men, fully equipped with artillery, field-kitchens, hospitals, and so forth, and the completeness of this equipment and the condition of the men speak well for the thoroughness with which the Persian Army of to-day has been reorganised as a fighting force. Reports of encounters between Government troops and the Sheikh's Arab tribesmen come through periodically, and it is significant that the Minister of War left Teheran hurriedly last Wednesday for Ispahan with his staff, in connection, it is said, with an engagement near Behbehan, where the Sheikh is said to have some 8,000 troops. Sardar Sepah evidently wishes to be in closer touch with the situation, and has announced his intention of leading his troops himself if necessary.'

Salar ed Dowleh, uncle of the present Shah, arrived in Ahwaz at the beginning of October and was received by the Sheikh of Mohammerah, but at whose invitation or on whose behalf he has returned to Persia is not clear. It will be remembered that Salar ed Dowleh has been living in Switzerland as an exile since the failure of the attempt of his brother, the ex-Shah, Mohamed Ali Mirza, to regain the throne in 1911, when a price of £5,000 was placed on his head by Mr. Morgan Shuster, the American Treasurer-General; but the Persian Government is said to have invited him to return to Persia last summer, after the unsuccessful agitation in favour of a Republic. Salar ed Dowleh has now returned to Baghdad.

Structural Changes in the Town.

For the past week the town has presented a truly extraordinary spectacle, at least in the two principal thoroughfares, the Ala ed Dowleh and Lalezar Streets. For some time past the Municipality have set their minds on pulling down (whether for the sake of safety, convenience, or for any other consideration it is difficult to say) any sort of covered-in archway jutting out over the street or pavement, supported by pillars, which have always been such common sights in the town, and the proprietors of such shops or houses were given the option of either demolishing the offending structures themselves or of having this done for them. No one seemed to consider the matter seriously, and, no notice having been taken of their repeated warnings, the Municipality decided to take matters into their own hands. Last week, therefore, the streets which in the morning wore their normal aspect were by the afternoon thick with the dust of falling masonry and littered with bricks and wreckage of all sorts, mixed with twisted telephone poles and wires; and the covered-in colonnade along the east side of the Lalezar, which has always been such a noticeable feature of the street, lay at the tender mercies of the housebreakers, who had not wasted much time in demolishing the roofs and tearing down the pillars, till in the evening the whole street looked like nothing so much as the abomination of desolation! Anyone new to the town would have been justified in thinking it had been subjected to a heavy bombardment or been the scene of a violent earthquake. There must be, one supposes, some good reason for it, and the streets may look better when all is finished, but so far I have met hardly anyone who has had a good word to say for such apparently wanton destruction, which has indisputably caused a tremendous amount of damage to property and loss to private individuals; and it is, therefore, no wonder that the Municipality authorities are not at present in very good odour with the proprietors of houses and owners of shops throughout the town. This ruthless demolition of property (in a good many cases rooms overhanging the streets have been cut completely in two and left exposed to the mercy of the elements) in the perhaps praiseworthy attempt to Westernise an Eastern capital may be highly commendable, in view of the spreading march of civilisation, but there is no doubt that it is very effectively destroying the admitted charm of the East, which is said to be unchangeable, but which is nevertheless changing so rapidly, even in remote slow-moving Persia. (It was rather refreshing to reflect on the very day that this demolition was taking place that a Conservative Government had been returned at home with an overwhelming majority!) The next step in the municipality's programme is, I am told, to cut down, for no apparent reason, all the trees in the main avenues of the town, which, apart from the actual coolness and welcome shade they impart during the hot summer months, lend the streets a distinctive picturesqueness and charm which none but the veriest vandals would wish to do away with.

Football.

Last week football matches were played on Drill Square, three mixed Persian and Armenian teams and a British team participating. In the first round the British XI.

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beat a Persian military team, and were also successful in the final against a team representing "The Association of the Young Men of Persia," consisting mostly of past scholars of the American College. This school, run in conjunction with the American Presbyterian Mission, has perhaps done more than anything else to foster football and other sports in Teheran, and it is rather extraordinary to think that whereas only a few years ago football was practically unknown among the natives, it has now got a strong hold on them, and is played with quite remarkable keenness by Persians and Armenians alike; and, in fact, a Football Association was inaugurated two years ago, and several teams compete each winter for a presentation silver challenge cup.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, November 18.

Island Progress.

Hopes are expressed that Cyprus may share in the financial encouragement which the British Government seems prepared to give to well-considered schemes for the development of Empire resources throughout the King's dominions. The *Phone tes Kyprou* is voicing these hopes in leading articles. That much could be done in the field of agriculture there is no doubt—*e.g.*, in cotton, silk, flax, and fruit cultivation. But in any schemes for improvement nothing can be done without more energetic co-operation by the Cypriots themselves for their own good. Unfortunately, to take one branch of agriculture, a project for the expansion of sericulture, which has been occupying so much attention lately—since the visit of Mr. Le Breton—and which might do much for a promising and profitable industry, instead of meeting with encouragement on the part of the very persons who should be the first to promote it, is meeting with opposition. This being so, the scheme is hardly likely to be carried through. On the other hand, there are some signs of progress. One is the establishment of a factory for the preparation of dried figs, in which the island might develop a remunerative business, and export figs almost equal to those of Smyrna. Prospects for agriculturists are favourable. There have been some good rains, and the torrents have brought down their fertilising soil to the central plains. There is, however, a considerable shortage of seed corn. Bodies of villagers have waited on the High Commissioner to ask that advances may be made on easy terms from the Government tithe grain stores. In many parts of the island the people are too poor to borrow from merchants, and it is hoped that Government will issue corn in a spirit of liberality to all needy agriculturalists.

The Late Chief Justice.

The departure of Sir Stanley Fisher, who has left Cyprus to take up his appointment as Chief Justice in Trinidad, is universally regretted. No British judge has perhaps endeared himself to the Cypriots so much during many years as President of a District Court, as Puisne judge, and as Chief Justice. The legal body desired to give a banquet in his honour; but although Sir Stanley was unable to accept an invitation, he received members of the Bar and other friends in the Law Court, where homage was rendered to his uniform justice, impartiality, and many good qualities. His successor is expected shortly. The Greeks have long desired that native judges, both Greeks and Turks, should be eligible for the offices of Puisne judge and King's Advocate, and the rumour is current that this privilege is to be now conceded. This is probably premature, but there is now a considerable number of Cypriots, both Greek and Turk, who have been called to the Bar in London. Mr. Thomas has been appointed judge of the Kyrenia Court and additional judge at Nicosia.

Crime in Cyprus.

There seems to be little, if any, diminution in criminal offences, notwithstanding the fact that the death sentence is carried out under British rule, whereas under Ottoman Government there had not been a case of execution for about thirty years, as cases of manslaughter and premeditated murder were compounded on payment of "blood money." Several murders and serious crimes not having been brought home to the perpetrators recently, a Nicosia paper suggests that the detective element in the Police should be strengthened and receive special training. The Cyprus police, under its British officers, is an excellent body, with able native Inspectors, and N.C. officers of both races, Greek and Turkish. It has, however, always been handicapped by the great reluctance of the people to come forward and give evidence, especially in murder cases, owing to the fear of retaliation.

WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

The annual meeting of the Scottish Women's Hospitals Association of the Royal Free Hospital was held on November 29 at the hospital. Lady Ossulston, who presided, announced that the Duchess of York had consented to become president of the association. The main source of its income was the St. Andrew's Eve Ball, which last year brought in £605. A "British Macedonian Expeditionary Force" bed was about to be endowed by the association, over £1,000 having been raised; and the association was now anxious to endow a third bed, to be called the "Elsie Inglis" bed, after the founder of the association.

The Duchess of Atholl, M.P., described the heroic work done by the Scottish Women's Hospitals in the War in Serbia, and the courage shown by Dr. Elsie Inglis and Evelina Haverfield.

Mme. Grouitch, whose husband was the Serbian Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs when war broke out in 1914, said the name of the Scottish Women's Hospitals Association would be for ever remembered in Serbia. Miss Etta Inglis, Lady Petrie, and Lady Barrett were among the subsequent speakers.

Sir Leslie Wilson, Governor of Bombay, and Lady Wilson made a State entry into Karachi on December 7.

The Archbishop of the National Council of Cyprus has, according to the Greek Press Bureau, invited Mr. Asquith to visit Cyprus.

A Belgrade message states that a train was derailed between Veles and Shtip, in Serbian Macedonia, last Saturday, and fifteen persons were injured. The accident is believed to have been deliberately caused, and an inquiry has been opened.

Messrs. Coutts and Co., bankers of the British Red Crescent Society, have received, among other donations for the Riff Medical Relief Fund, £100 from the Ruler of Bhopal, £50 from the Aga Khan, £25 from Izzet Pasha, and £10 from Mr. H. Gurney.

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THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN ASSOCIATION.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Association was held on December 3 at the Royal Colonial Institute (by permission). The assembly expressed their extreme detestation of the series of murders and attempted murders of British officials in the service of Egyptian Government which have culminated in the murder of General Sir Lee Stack.

The Right Hon. General Sir John Maxwell, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., was elected President of the Association.

There is a rapidly increasing membership of retired British officials of the Egyptian Government. The Association is now open to British subjects other than officials who have interests in Egypt or the Sudan.

The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer is J. F. G. Hopkins, Esq., O.B.E., and offices of the Association 12, Holborn Viaduct.

COUNCIL.

President.—Right Hon. General Sir John Maxwell, G.C.B., K.C.M.G.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Chairman, A. F. MacCallan, Esq., C.B.E., F.R.C.S.; S. C. Hebard, Esq., Colonel H. G. Lyons, F.R.S., R. O'Donoghue, Esq., D.S.O., P. Swan, Esq., J. F. G. Hopkins, Esq., O.B.E., Major J. S. Liddell, C.M.G., D.S.O., and T. D. Scott, Esq., M.C.

In the course of his address, the Chairman said:—"It is well known to all the members of this Association that it is an offshoot of the Association of British Officials in Egypt, an organisation which has rendered great services to its members there by advancing their claims and putting forward their points of view in negotiations having reference to the conditions of their service and of retirement. At a meeting of the Association of British Officials in Egypt which was held on September 26, 1923, it was decided to form an Anglo-Egyptian Association of Past and Present British Officials with the object of safeguarding the interests of those who had left Egypt on the termination of their service there.

"As laid down in the constitution which was then drawn up, and is reproduced in the new statutes, the Association aims at keeping in touch with those who have settled in Great Britain, Ireland, or abroad, as well as with those who may be still in Egypt. By maintaining close communication with the Association of British Officials this Association will be always informed of the trend of events in Egypt, and will be in a position to take any steps that may be desirable in order to safeguard the interests of its members. Moreover, it forms an organised body which, through its Council, will be in a position to put forward the views of the various grades of ex-officials among its members, and to draw attention to any conditions which may enact unfairly upon any particular group or individual.

"The Association may, it is hoped, be in a position before long to render assistance to any of its members who are desirous of finding employment by bringing to their notice such vacancies as may exist in the colonial services or elsewhere.

"At the same meeting of September 26, 1923, eight members were nominated to form an Executive Committee, and this Committee has held eight meetings since the spring, when the first meeting was held. Several letters have passed between the Committee and the Foreign Office on matters relating to pensions, the principal points urged by the Committee being the reference of all pensions to a gold standard, and for some guarantee for the regular payment of them in the future.

"The experience of the past six months has shown that certain of the rules of the original constitution might with advantage be amended, and that others are no longer operative. The Executive Committee has therefore prepared the draft of the new statutes which is now before you, and of which copies have been circulated to all members of the Association.

"The principal change which the Committee propose is that the affairs of the Association should be entrusted to a Council which will be elected annually by the members at the annual general meeting, and that the Executive and other Committees shall be nominated by this Council to which they shall be responsible.

"There are a few other minor changes, and with these the proposed statutes will provide the means for administering the Association efficiently in the interest of its members."

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King Fuad on December 3 gave an audience to Lord Allenby, who presented Mr. Nevile Henderson, who was recently appointed Counsellor to the High Commissioner in Egypt, with the rank of a Minister Plenipotentiary.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker, Director of Civil Aviation, who is flying to India, arrived in Constantinople from Bucharest on December 5. He was the guest of Mr. Lindsay, the British Diplomatic representative, during his stay in Constantinople.

The King has been pleased to approve of the award of the Medal of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire to Fred Hamilton March, chauffeur to the late Major-General Sir Lee Oliver FitzMaurice Stack, G.B.E., C.M.G., for gallantry.

The Times Khartoum correspondent reports that a Court Martial held in Khartoum on December 3 sentenced to death four officers involved in the mutiny in the 11th Sudanese on November 27. One of the officers was an instructor at the School of Musketry, and the others were attending a course there. The sentences of three of them were confirmed, and they have been shot. That of the fourth was commuted to fifteen years' imprisonment.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

December 11, 1924 (New Style).
November 28, 1924 (Old Style).
Jomada I., 14, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Kislev 14, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Prince Paul of Greece left London on December 7 for Paris.

Sir Frederick and Lady Evans left London last Friday in the P. and O. s.s. Morea for Port Said.

Miss Megan Lloyd George arrived in London last Saturday evening, after nearly a year's stay in India.

Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught left London last Thursday for India, and will be away for four months.

The Rt. Hon. H. H. Asquith returned to Cairo from Palestine last Thursday, and left for Luxor the following day.

Dr. Douritch, the Yugoslav representative of the Reparation Commission, returned to Paris last week from London.

Major-General Sir Torquhil and Lady Elizabeth Matheson arrived last Saturday at Russell's Hotel, Curzon Street, from India.

Lady Wilson, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir A. T. Wilson, has given birth to a son, at Morris Lodge, Lower Bourne, Farnham.

The Library Committee of Cambridge University have appointed Mr. H. M. J. Loewe, M.A. (Queen's), to be Curator in Oriental Literature for six months.

The Egyptian Minister, who intended to leave London on December 8 for the Continent, has postponed his departure in consequence of the illness of Mme. Aziz Izzet Pasha.

Lady Stack, widow of the late Sirdar, Major-General Sir Lee Stack, arrived last week in Exmouth, and is staying with her mother, Mrs. Moodie, at Louisa Terrace.

Lord and Lady Cable have booked their passages on the P. and O. s. Paldera, which leaves Marseilles for Bombay on January 2. They will not return to England before the end of March.

Mme. Yovanovitch, the wife of the Consul-General of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, returned to London on December 4 from Italy. M. Yovanovitch is visiting Belgrade.

Vice-Admiral Sir Richard Webb, chief of the Naval Mission to Greece, left London last week for Athens, where he arrived on December 6, accompanied by Lady Webb and members of his staff.

Announcement has been made that Colonel F. H. Kisch, C.B.E., D.S.O., Director of the Political Department of the Palestine Zionist Executive, has accepted the invitation to visit the United States in the interests of the Jewish reconstruction work in Palestine, especially the Keren Bayesod, or Palestine Foundation Fund. Colonel Kisch left Jerusalem at the beginning of December, and is returning about the beginning of March.

Major A. W. D. Bentinck will lecture on "The Assyrians" (with lantern illustrations) before the Central Asian Society at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, S.W., to-morrow (Friday) at 5 p.m.

M. Titulesco, the Rumanian Minister, has returned to London from the Continent. He attended a meeting at the Treasury last Monday to discuss various financial questions concerning Great Britain and Rumania.

Mahmoud Sabet Bey, First Secretary at the Egyptian Legation, and Mme. Sabet, left London on December 3 for Cairo. They were accompanied by Miss Elizabeth Downes, the daughter of Sir Arthur and Lady Downes, who is going on a visit to her aunt, Viscountess Allenby.

Sir Edward and Lady Beauchamp, Sir William and Lady Hale-White, and Sir Robert Highet left London last Thursday by the P. and O. Bombay express to join the P. and O. s. Caledonia at Marseilles. Lady Cruise and Admiral Sir Guy Gaunt embarked at Marseilles for Bombay.

The engagement is announced between Colonel Sydney Frederick Muspratt, C.S.I., C.I.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., son of the late Henry Muspratt, I.C.S., and Rosamonde, youngest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Edward Barry, Bt., and the late Lady Barry, of Ockwells Manor, Bray.

Colonel Ion Antonesco, Rumania, and Colonel de l'Etat-Major Georges Ostoitch, Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, were among the foreign military attachés who received an invitation to a luncheon given at the Carlton Hotel on December 2 by the Secretary of State for War, Sir Laming Worthington-Evans.

The marriage of Sir Henri Wilhelm August Deterding, managing director of the Asiatic Petroleum Company, took place on December 4 at the St. George's District Registrar's Office, Princes Row, Buckingham Palace Road, to Mrs. Lydia Pavlovna Bagratouni. There were present at the ceremony two of the sons of the bridegroom, Mr. H. Deterding and Mr. R. Deterding. Afterwards Sir Henri and Lady Deterding left for the East Coast.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1924.

STEADINESS IN EGYPT.

We cannot forbear expressing relief at the masterly way in which the Egyptian crisis has so far been handled. The Government at home and the British authorities in Egypt have acted with decided sapience, so that the matter now tends to assume a normal aspect. For what has been officially done there is, in short, little but praise. But there are disquieting signs that hysterical elements in London may attempt to force the pace at which the Government intends things to develop in Egypt. It appears that, on the advice given by Lord Allenby to the Cabinet, very necessarily, but at the same time only as a warning to cover the worst conceivable contingencies, to the effect that Egyptian plots existed to kill certain of our Ministers, sections of the Press had to go about, in the manner of Moscow sheets, screaming the wildest headlong cries. One might have thought from the appearance of the less responsible organs in London, which, nevertheless, have, especially in relation to foreign affairs, their moulding effect on public opinion, that since the assassination of the Sirdar every Egyptian, particularly every Egyptian in this country, had become a potential murderer. It was a most lamentable exhibition of hysteria, calculated to do Great Britain generally, and in this case of Egypt in particular, serious harm.

It is true that official efforts were made to minimise the effect that the exposure of this so-called plot had caused. The stigma, however, remains. If only certain journals would stop a minute to think—a change of habit which, though violent enough, could be easily accomplished—they might realise that it is these same Egyptians whom they now reproach as potential assassins upon whom the future governing of Egypt depends. Great Britain is not to govern Egypt: government of that country depends wholly and always upon the co-operation of the Egyptians. Whether the Press outburst last week concerning the Nationalist "murder-gang" has made any easier the already very difficult task of the British in Egypt in securing Egyptian collaboration may best be imagined. But if our hysterical sheets have no time to reflect on the possible reactions in Egypt and elsewhere of their stupid "stories," perhaps they might recall that our Intelligence Service, or Secret Service, which is the finest in the world, works best in secret. If they do not already know it, we can assure them that there is precious little that goes on in Cairo or anywhere else in Egypt that is not immediately made known to the London authorities. Even the wildest statements of Egyptian Nationalists, such as the asserted fact that one had two or three British Cabinet Ministers in his pocket, are duly collated. All such plots and intrigues can safely be left to the proper authorities. For the Press to chime in and to attempt to stir up opinion against a mass of people, most of whom must necessarily be innocent, savours too much of a short-sighted endeavour to justify in the most wrong way possible the recent actions of the British authorities. Steadiness is the virtue which is needed above all others now: panic is the worst vice into which we could decline.

EDUCATION AND POLITICS IN THE BALKANS.

To the observer of Balkan politics the baneful uses to which University education is frequently perverted is one of the most discouraging signs. Instead of being homes of enlightenment, inculcating the virtues of tolerance and of intellectual persuasion, Universities in Greece, in Bulgaria, and in Roumania have too often been the theatre of the displaying of most intolerant and partisan activities. Learning is, in short, at places like Athens, Sofia, and Jassy, sometimes made the sport of politics. And while this state of affairs endures, neither the Balkan professor nor the Balkan politician will be respected as he otherwise deserves.

It is regrettable to have to include in this lament Yugoslavia, the youngest of the Balkan States. But at Belgrade last week, it seems, an attempt was made to seize upon the dismissal of two Zagreb professors as the signal for an anti-Government outburst. Communist students are said to have been the principal agitators against the forces of order, and, although the incident in itself was perhaps negligible, it was, in view of the forthcoming elections, significant enough. In this connection we do not, of course, hold a brief either for the Pashitch-Pribitchevitch Government or for their opponents in Croatia; what we do wish to emphasise is the tendency of Balkan Universities to become, in times of excitement, miniature Al Azhars. That this is a decreasing tendency is probable, for the visits of Balkan students to Continental Universities, and especially to English Universities, are having a very good effect. Such students at Oxford and Cambridge will have seen, for example, that the recent elevation to office of the Labour Party was in essence an elevation of the University-trained Labour brain, for it is equally certain that the Labour Party could not have attained its prestige without its "intellectuals," and that, unless its "intellectuals" had pursued constitutional methods, the Party would not have enjoyed even its brief spell of office. To subordinate learning to politics, more especially to violent politics, is one of the vilest prostitutions, and, as the history alike of England and of Egypt shows, deservedly unremunerative. There is much to be said for the view that Egypt without her young students would be a happy country; and if the Belgrade student attempts unlawfully to divide the Croat peasant from the Serb, content will hardly descend upon Yugoslavia.

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THE HEJAZ RAILWAY.

By MAJOR E. W. POLSON NEWMAN.

Now that the eyes of the whole Moslem world are turned towards the Hejaz, and the fate of that country, so closely linked with the welfare of the Holy Places of Islam, is at the present moment in the "melting pot," attention is drawn to an important factor which plays a powerful part in the destiny and interests of that country—namely, the Hejaz Railway. This factor in the situation seems to have been somewhat overlooked, partly due, no doubt, to the difficulty of restoring its war-shattered condition, and partly to the unsettled state of the country through which it passes, making its repair much more difficult than that of railways in ordinary devastated areas. A brief account of its construction, present condition, and future prospects may, therefore, be of interest at the present time.

The idea of building the Hejaz Railway germinated in the mind of Izzet Pasha El A'abed, of Damascus, Second Secretary to H.M. Sultan Abdul Hamid Khan IInd of Turkey, who was greatly attracted by the brilliant prospect of rendering a unique service to the Moslem world by facilitating the pilgrimages to the Holy Territory of the Hejaz, which had hitherto been undertaken by means of camels, thereby incurring much risk, expense, and loss of time. The new scheme held out the prospect of bringing the Holy Places of Islam within easy reach of all classes of true believers, and of thus creating a strong feeling of gratitude and attachment towards the ruling house of Turkey, the Khalifs of Beni Osman.

As the Sultan was also fully alive to the advantages of establishing an efficient means of transport with the Hejaz and making it an integral part of the Turkish Empire, he sanctioned the enterprise in 1897, and ordered its execution forthwith. The necessary funds were raised by subscriptions which were most liberally given by all Moslem nations, and by the imposition of the Hejaz Stamp Duty, which in the year 1910 alone produced no less than 270,000 Turkish pounds. The first contribution towards the fund was made by the Sultan himself, and amounted to 200,000 Turkish pounds, which was used for the purchase of rails. These bore the inscription: "Of the bounty of Our Lord Commander of the Faithful, Abdul Hamil Khan, may his victory prevail."

A military force of six battalions of infantry, consisting of both skilled and unskilled labour, was raised to help in the construction of the railway, and the work was carried out under the control of the Hamidieh-Hejaz Railway Board, with Kazim Pasha as President.

The work was started at Mezerib, the terminal station of the D.M.P. line, and situated in the Hauran district, 90 kilometres from Damascus, towards Deraa, at which point the line branched northwards in the direction of Damascus and southwards to Amman, Maan, and Medina. The Hejaz Railway Board contracted through the D.M.P. for the purchase of locomotives and rolling stock, but it very soon became apparent that the cost of transport was too great, and that it was essential for the railway to construct a line to the port of Haifa. In 1902 the line was completed and put in operation from Damascus to Amman, and in 1904 it had reached as far as Maan, while the line to Haifa was opened in the same year. Medina was reached in 1907.

Large numbers of pilgrims came from all parts of the world to perform the Holy Pilgrimage, and from 1907 till 1910 the line flourished and prospered. In 1912 the Hejaz Railway commenced the construction of the Afule-Jenin-Nablus-Jerusalem line, which was completed in 1914 as far as Nablus.

In 1913 the Hejaz Railway had reached a highly satisfactory state of organisation. A tri-weekly passenger and bi-weekly goods service, as well as a weekly express service with dining and sleeping accommodation, were run from Damascus and Haifa to Medina, and the latter journey was performed in forty-eight hours.

With the outbreak of War in 1914 the railway was taken over by the Turkish Ministry of War, and all plans for extensions, and so on, had to be put aside to give place to military transport requirements, and all the material collected at Medina, for the continuation of the line to Mecca, was utilised during 1914 and 1916 for the construction of the following military railways:—

1. Messoudieh-Surar-Bir Sabe'-Hafiratul Awja.
2. Tina-Gaza.
3. Widening of the Jaffa-Jerusalem line from 100 centimetre to 105 centimetre gauge.

This work was carried out by the German engineer Meizner Pasha, and completed in 1916-17.

The occupation of Palestine and Syria after the War, and the acceptance of the British Mandate for Palestine and Transjordan, necessitated the repair of such portions of the Hejaz Railway as fell within the areas of these countries. The Afule-Jenin and Haifa-Deraa sections offered no great difficulty, as Lord Allenby's advance had been so rapid that the Turks in their flight had no time to damage the line seriously; but the section passing through Transjordan and south thereof required very considerable repair, as both the British forces from the north and the Emir Faisal's army advancing from the south had blown up most of the bridges, and vital parts of the line. In September, 1921, the Palestine Railways, at the request of Mr. St. J. Philby, Chief British Representative at Amman, started to open up and operate the section to Maan. The first through train ran about two months later, and a regular weekly service was inaugurated.

From April 1, 1922, the Transjordan and Hejaz sections of the railway were separated from the supervision of the Palestine Railways, and were worked as an undertaking of their own, with a view to ultimately opening up the continuation through to Medina, from which point the repair of the southern section was commenced under the direction of the Emir Ali (now King Ali of the Hejaz). The first through train to Medina ran in June, 1923, carrying out repairs on its way.

During the rainy season of that year work had to be stopped altogether, but in the following January two through trains from Medina, conveying the Emir Ali and his party, arrived at Maan, where they picked up King Hussein on his way from Mecca to Amman. In April it was decided that the Haifa-El Hammeh, Afule-Jenin-Nablus, and Haifa-Acre branch line portions of the Hejaz Railway in Palestine, already operated by the Palestine Railways, together with the Nessib-Maan section of the Hejaz Railway, should be operated under the supervision and help of the Palestine Railways, but should maintain separate accounts. The section from Maan to Amman (exclusive) was temporarily allowed to remain in the southern section under the direction of the Emir Ali.

By May repairs to the southern section had sufficiently advanced to permit the running of pilgrim trains through to Medina, and between May and September over 4,000 pilgrims were carried over the line. Indeed, a much greater pilgrim traffic could have been carried had the southern section been in possession of sufficient engine power and stock to deal with it, and had it been more widely

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known that the line was open right through to Medina. Therefore, it is intended that for the present all profits of this railway should go towards the improvement of the line and the purchase of more rolling stock. The railway is considerably hampered by the fact that the very limited rolling stock in running order is in the possession of three different administrations; for, in addition to the working arrangements with the Palestine Railways previously mentioned, the sections from Damascus to Deraa and from Deraa to El Hammeh are controlled and worked by the French, who have the large engine sheds and workshops at Damascus, the old headquarters of the administration.

At the present time the sections administered by the Palestine Railways are being worked with success and profit, and it is anticipated that in the near future the section of the line, which runs through Transjordan, will also come under Palestine control. The Palestine Railways, with their experienced staff and facilities for repairs, are in a position to restore and work advantageously the Hejaz Railway, which has before it perhaps a greater future than its creators ever realised; and it would seem a wise step if the Supreme Moslem Council, who may decide on the future of the working of the Medina section, were to consider well the advisability of placing its administration temporarily in the hands of the Palestine Railways, and thereby give it the opportunity of a really good "start in life." The Medain-Saleh-Medina section, which is open only to Moslems, could be controlled by a capable Moslem staff, which the Palestine Railways would have no difficulty in providing.

It is expected that the Moslems of India, who far outnumber their brethren in other parts of the world, will use the railway much more in the future than they did in pre-War days, owing to the fact that the opening up of the route via Basra and Baghdad by rail and motor-car places the Hejaz line, with its connections to Medina and Jerusalem, much more within their reach.

It is understood that there is every intention of improving the caravan route between Maan and Akaba, and of starting a motor service between these two points. This, together with regular steamer sailings between Akaba and Jeddah, should make the combined rail and steamer service a popular one for pilgrims. They can break their journey at Amman, where it is intended to open a comfortable pilgrim hostel, and those who wish to visit Jerusalem or Nebi Moussa can do so without much difficulty.

In order to enable the running of fast and comfortable pilgrim trains, more rolling stock is required, but it is understood that the necessary funds already exist and will be released as soon as a satisfactory arrangement can be made for the working of the line.

Undoubtedly, the future of the Hejaz Railway depends entirely on its administration, and there is in this connection only one sound policy. The entire line, with the exception of that section which runs through French territory, must be under British control.

Simla Municipality has decided to add a large lecture-room to the Dufferin Women's Hospital Hall, to be used for lectures by experts on midwifery and child welfare. Lady Reading has given a donation of 10,000 rupees (£666), which will practically cover the cost.

Three of the six destroyers maintained by the United States Navy in the Mediterranean, the Worden, Reid, and Converse, on December 8 arrived at Haifa, where they will remain until December 17. These destroyers have recently been visiting several Mediterranean and Adriatic ports, including Marseilles, Pola, and Bizerta.

AUTHORITY IN CYPRUS.

A correspondent sends us a copy of the *Cyprus Gazette* for October 31, which contains the following proclamation:—

"MALCOLM STEVENSON,
"High Commissioner.

"In exercise of the power vested in me by Section 2 (2) of the Public Professions Law, 1921, I, Malcolm Stevenson, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, His Majesty's High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Cyprus, do hereby proclaim and direct that a procession in connection with a marriage which takes place at Tymbou on November 2, 1924, and is proceeding from the village of Tymbou to the village of Lymbia, is prohibited from passing through the village of Louroudjina.

"Given at Nicosia, this 31st day of October, 1924.

"GOD SAVE THE KING.
"(M.P. 790/21.)
"By His Excellency's Command,
"J. M. ELLIS,
"Acting Chief Secretary to Government."

Our correspondent adds: "The point is that Turks and Greeks would be at each other's throats were the British flag hauled down. Cyprus is really a second Ireland."

SKETCHES OF KASHMIR AND OF YUGOSLAVIA.

A very pleasing exhibition of water-colour sketches, done by Mrs. Ralph Berners, of Kashmir, India, and Yugoslavia, is now being held at Walker's Galleries, New Bond Street. Mrs. Berners appears to have explored the beauties of Kashmir thoroughly, and she succeeds well in representing to us its extreme loveliness. For the most part she draws natural landscape, and obtains most charming effects with her lotuses, chenar trees, irises, woods and valleys, and so on. It is difficult to particularise, but such pictures as "Hamadan Mosque, Srinagar," "The Monsoon at Gulmarg," and "Chenar Trees in the Sonwar Bagh, October" were especially notable.

Six little Indian sketches, tastefully done, contain one gorgeous representation, "Bringing in the Peacock—Province of Palamau."

Finally, there are four enviable Yugoslav drawings: "Spring in Slovenia," "Pear Blossom," "The Robbers' Castle," and, most lovely and picturesque of all, "The Pilgrimage Church on Lake Bled." To all those who have visited one of the most enchanting spots in Europe, this last picture will recall the pleasantest memories.

THE SUDAN GOVERNORSHIP.

On December 4, in Cairo, the Royal Decree was signed appointing Sir Geoffrey Archer Governor-General of the Sudan, in accordance with the Anglo-Egyptian Convention of 1899.

Sir Geoffrey has had great experience, and enjoys a high reputation in East Africa and Somaliland and in Abyssinia. He entered the Colonial Service in 1901. In 1912 he was appointed to Somaliland, and the following year came into contact with the Mad Mullah. In 1919 he was appointed Governor of Somaliland, and in 1922 Governor of Uganda.

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Near East Bookshelf.

A ROMANCE OF TURKISH IRAQ.

"SOPHY, A TALE OF BAGHDAD." By E. S. Stevens. (London: Hurst and Blackett, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

The brilliant writer who is widely known under the pen-name "E. S. Stevens" has laid the scene of her latest novel in Iraq while it was still a province of the Ottoman Empire. A young Scotsman named David Gilmour comes out to Baghdad in view of joining an uncle who has prospered in business and married an Armenian lady. But death intervenes to destroy David's projects, and he arrives only just in time to attend his relative's funeral. The widow, however, smiles on him through her tears, and he falls head over ears in love with a fascinating cousin named Sophy Matossian, who is the eponymous heroine of this romance. Miss Stevens deftly draws aside the veil which shrouds the Armenian's home life, and shows us the young Scotsman immersed in a sea of intrigues. Sophy's wealth is coveted by two wicked uncles, who long to see her married to their respective sons, and a third claimant to her hand comes into the scene in the person of the old Turkish Governor of the Baghdad vilayet. But Gilmour contrives to spirit his fair cousin away to Basra, whence she is smuggled on board a British liner in a bale of carpets. Alas! for his ardent hopes; on arriving at Bombay Sophy rejects the overtures of her European adorer, and insists on marrying a compatriot. David turns in despair to an old love, "Sybil" by name, who arrives most opportunely at Bombay, and the curtain falls on an exchange of love-pledges between the pair.

Miss Stevens's amazing capacity for reproducing exotic atmosphere and delineating character is conspicuous in her latest book. It displays a far wider range of thought than the vast majority of novels: all who desire to know more of the Near East should absorb the wisdom which shines on pp. 59, 106-7, 218, and 236. For statesmen, too, it has enduring value by reason of the light it casts on the tremendous problems which have arisen since the Armistice. Among them is the Armenian question, which has not been handled with firmness or justice by the Western Powers.

Armenia is a tableland at the head of the Delta formed by the Tigris and Euphrates. Its area is nearly 250,000 square miles, and, despite constantly recurring massacres, its population still exceeds a million and a-half. But, like the Jews, Armenians have undergone a dispersion, owing to relentless persecution, and they are found throughout Eastern Asia, India, and even Western Europe. With their dauntless bravery and staunch adhesion to an ancestral creed are associated turbulence and a genius for intrigue. The subjection of women which prevails throughout Asia, and is, perhaps, the chief cause of its stagnation, is very marked in every Armenian household. If the adage "Happy is the people which has no history" is of doubtful application, its converse is indubitably true. The Armenian's eyes are ever turned to his country's past. He cannot forget that she fought on equal terms with Imperial Rome, and twice in after years became the hub of a far-flung empire. Hence unrest is chronic in Armenia, which wholesale massacres are impotent to quell. Great Britain has persistently evaded her responsibilities towards this unhappy race. While the Berlin Congress of 1878 was actually sitting she made a secret treaty with Turkey which guaranteed the Sultan's Asiatic dominions from invasion conditionally on his introducing specified reforms into Armenia and protecting her from the inroads of barbarous neighbours. It has long been a dead letter, and regarding recent history Miss Stevens writes in her preface:—

> Armenia, hoping to gain much, since she had so little to lose, from the Great War, during which she threw in her lot with the Allies, was cruelly disappointed. Her sufferings exceeded in horror anything that had gone before; she was expelled from her home and robbed of her children. No martyrdom was like unto her martyrdom, no grief like unto her grief. Nor did peace bring her hope. America refused a mandate, and since then the problem of Armenia has been shelved, forgotten, deliberately ignored.

F. H. S.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Croatian Tales of Long Ago." By Iv. Berlitch-Mazuranitch. Translated by F. S. Copeland. With 10 Coloured Plates and 13 Line Drawings by Vladimir Kirin. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Making of Modern India." By Nicol Macnicol, M.A., D.Litt. (London: Oxford University Press. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Word of Lalla the Prophetess." Done into English verse by Sir Richard Temple. (London: Cambridge University Press. 16s. net.)

"Traders in East and West." By Florence L. Bowman and Esther J. Roper. (London: The Sheldon Press. 2s. net.)

"Oriental Forerunners of Byzantine Painting." Oriental Institute Publications. Volume I. By James Henry Breasted. (U.S.A.: The University of Chicago Press. 4 dols., postage extra.)

"Conflict of Policies in Asia." By Thomas F. Millard. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 15s. net.)

"The Empire at War." Edited for the Royal Colonial Institute by Sir Charles Lucas. K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Volume III. (London: Oxford University Press. 21s. net.)

"The English-Speaking Nations: A Study in the Development of the Commonwealth Ideal." By G. W. Morris, M.A., and L. S. Wood, M.A. (London: Oxford University Press. 3s. 6d. net. Prize Edition, 8s. 6d. net.)

"The Samkhya System." The Heritage of India Series. By A. Berriedale Keith. (London: Oxford University Press. 2s. 6d. net.)

"The Traditions of Islam: An Introduction to the Study of the Hadith Literature." By Alfred Guillaume, M.A. (London: Oxford University Press. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Spiritual and Political Revolutions in Islam." By Felix Valyi. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner, and Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Far Away up the Nile." By John G. Millais. With Illustrations from Drawings by the Author, by H. R. Millais, and from Photographs. (London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 30s. net.)

"Russia and the Allies in the Great War." By V. Novitzky. With a preface by Colonel Malone. (London: Kniga, Ltd. 1s.)

"Ethnographie von Makedonien." By Prof. Dr. Gustav Weigand. (Leipzig: Friedrich Brandstetter. 3 marks.)

"The Ocean of Story: Being C. H. Tawney's Translation of Somadeva's Katha Sarit Sagara (or Ocean of Streams of Story)." Now edited, with Introduction, Fresh Explanatory Notes, and Terminal Essay, by N. M. Penzer, M.A., F.R.G.S., F.G.S. In ten volumes. Vol. II. With a Foreword by Sir George A. Grierson, K.C.I.E., Ph.D., D.Litt., LL.D. (London: Chas. J. Sawyer, Ltd. 42s. Privately printed for subscribers only.)

"The Struggle for Power in Moslem Asia." By E. Alexander Powell. (London: John Long, Ltd. 15s. net.)

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The appointment of Air Commodore R. H. Clark-Hall, D.S.O., to Headquarters, Egypt, for duty as Chief Staff Officer, as from December 1, is notified by the Air Ministry.

The Rev. C. Steer, M.C., vicar of Hornchurch, has been appointed by the Bishop of Jerusalem as priest-in-charge of St. George's Cathedral and chaplain to the British community.

The following appointment to the Colonial Service has been made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies during the month ended November 10:—Iraq.—Mr. D. D. Paterson, B.Sc. (For.), B.Sc. (Agric.), to Agricultural Inspector.

General Sarrail has been appointed High Commissioner of the French Republic in Syria and Commander-in-Chief of the Levant Army, in succession to General Weygand, who has resigned. General Sarrail was Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces in Macedonia during a considerable portion of the Great War.

The King has made the following appointments:

Sir Colville Adrian de Rune Barclay, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E. M.V.O., to be his Majesty's Consul-General for the State of Hungary, to reside at Budapest (with effect as from June 28, 1924).

Mr. Henry Duncan Graves Law to be his Majesty's Consul for Kerman and Persian Baluchistan, to reside at Kerman (with effect as from September 24, 1924).

Mr. David John Footman to be his Majesty's Vice-Consul for the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, to reside at Skoplje (with effect as from November 1, 1924).

Mr. Geoffrey Richard Arthur Herbert to be a Third Secretary in his Majesty's Diplomatic Service (with effect as from October 13, 1924).

Monsieur D. M. Dimitrion as Consul of Denmark at Larnaca for Cyprus.

The King has appointed the following three gentlemen to be judges of the High Court of Judicature at Rangoon, viz.:—Mr. Edward Dyce Duckworth, Indian Civil Service; Mr. Parungavur Narasimha Chari, Pleader of the High Court at Rangoon; Mr. Joseph Augustus Maung Gyi, Barrister-at-Law. Two of the above appointments constitute an addition to the permanent strength of the Court. The third appointment is in place of Mr. Justice May Oung, who has resigned.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Nevile Meyrick Henderson, C.M.G., a Counsellor in the Diplomatic Service, to be a Minister Plenipotentiary while employed at the Residency in Cairo. Mr. Henderson, who was born in 1882, joined the Diplomatic Service in 1905, and has served, among other places, at Nish and Constantinople. He was Chargé d'Affaires in Constantinople in July, 1922, from November, 1922, until February, 1923, and from April, 1923, until the appointment of Mr. Lindsay as H.M. Representative in January last.

The King has approved the following appointments:—Mr. Alfred James Chotzner, I.C.S., to be a Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Calcutta, vice Sir T. W. Richardson, who has retired; and Sir Sydney C. K. F. Nettleton (Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Bahama Islands), to be the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Cyprus. Sir Sydney Nettleton, who now leaves the Bahamas for Cyprus, has been Chief Justice at Nassau since 1922. He is a member of the Middle Temple, and since 1912 has held various judicial posts overseas.

OBITUARY.

Mr. George Birt Jenner, C.M.G., formerly British Minister at Bogota, died at his villa, Les Alouettes, Cannes, on December 1, after a short illness. Mr. Jenner, who was 84 years of age, entered the Diplomatic Service in 1857, was Secretary of Legation and Oriental Secretary at Teheran from 1882 to 1884.

A message from Madras announces the death of Sir Subramaniya Aiyer, K.C.I.E. Sir Subramaniya, who was in his 82nd year, had a distinguished legal career, culminating in a High Court Judgeship of Madras.

Mr. Percy Seymour Vesey FitzGerald, C.S.I., late Bombay Political Department, died at Bognor on November 18 at the age of 72. Mr. FitzGerald joined the Bombay Revenue Survey in 1871, and was shortly afterwards transferred to the Bombay Political Department, in which he acquired an unrivalled local knowledge, particularly of the Kathiawar and Northern Gujarat States. He was Political Agent in Palanpur from 1898 to 1900, and made his mark in famine administration during that period. In January, 1906, he was created C.S.I., and appointed Agent to the Governor in Kathiawar (the highest post of his department) in the same year.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

The Greek Loan Success.

There was no doubt that the Greek Refugee Loan would be fully subscribed—the way in which Greece has consistently met her financial engagements, coupled with the attractive character of the investment, made that very clear—but no one could have imagined that there would be the demand for it that there was. Like the election, the result was in the category of things unexpected. The Loan was for an amount of £7,500,000, in 7 per cent. sterling bonds at a price of 88 per cent. The lists were opened at 9.45 a.m. on Monday morning, by which time there was a large gathering outside Hambros Bank, and when they were closed, which took place very shortly, it was estimated that the loan had been subscribed for fifteen times over. It was a remarkable result and thus surprising when the conditions are considered. The German Loan, it is true, was subscribed for thirteen times over, but for a variety of reasons it was improbable that a Balkan Loan would enjoy anything like the same degree of favour. The result proves once again the discriminating character of the average British investor. It was realised, as I have indicated above, that Greek finance has been above reproach, and, further, there was a very wide appreciation of the fact that this is a reconstruction Loan in the fullest sense of the term, and that its success was an essential factor in the way to the gradual recovery of Europe and the consequent expansion of British trade; hence the over-subscription.

Some Aspects of the Loan.

The Loan proves once again that London is still the predominant money market of the world. America could have had more of the Loan, but it was only possible to arrange for about 10,000,000 dollars to be raised there, though America is the only country at the present time which is really overburdened with surplus capital. The great demand for the Loan will not unnaturally lead Greece to suppose that the money might have been obtained on somewhat easier terms, and it is certainly open to doubt whether the conditions on which capital can be obtained when the security is of the highest class have quite kept pace with the improvement in the economic situation generally as reflected by the decreasing yield to be obtained from gilt-edged securities. The object of the Loan is, of course, the settlement in Greece of refugees from Asia Minor, who have brought with them to Greece an expert knowledge of a number of important industries, for the development of which in their new home only capital is required. What is Asia Minor's loss should be a gain of inestimable value to Greece. Now that the requisite money is available for the conclusion of the work of settling the refugees it should not be long before Greece is in the enjoyment of a number of flourishing new industries, one effect of which will be a great expansion of her external trade, in which it can reasonably be assumed Great Britain will benefit substantially. British trade relations with Greece have always been fairly good, and the willingness to take British goods which has always been in evidence is likely to be more pronounced in the future as a consequence of British help in reconstruction in the shape of this Loan.

Further Near Eastern Loans.

Other Near Eastern countries are certain in the near future to be in the market for loans, and it is hoped for their own sake that they will draw the correct conclusion from the result of the present issue. Loans can always be obtained on the London market by countries which invariably meet their engagements, but the converse is also the case.

Phœnix Oil and Transport.

At the meeting of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Company Sir Edward Manville gave a most encouraging survey of the position of the company. It is estimated that this year the production will be about 185,000 tons, while the production for the last four months has been at the rate of 240,000 tons for a full year. "I have previously told you," said Sir Edward, "that, in order to achieve the minimum results we aimed at, some 30 wells should be drilled down into the oil sands on the various fields in each year. When the report was put into your hands we informed you that 29 wells had actually been brought in this year, but during last week four additional wells have been drilled into the oil sand, making a total of 33 for the first eleven months of the year, with the probability of further ones being added during the remainder of this month. This will materially add to our production in the months ahead." During the coming year it is anticipated that at least 30 more wells will be drilled. Sir Edward concluded by touching on the question of a dividend, and indicated that they ought to be in a position to reach that stage by the next meeting.

COMMENTATOR.

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HAMBROS BANK, LIMITED announce that

THE SUBSCRIPTION LIST HAS BEEN CLOSED, THE LOAN HAVING BEEN LARGELY OVER-SUBSCRIBED.

GREEK GOVERNMENT 7% REFUGEE LOAN OF 1924

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Issued pursuant to the Geneva Protocol dated the 29th day of September, 1923, and amending Protocol of the 19th day of September, 1924, the Greek Legislative Decree, dated the 13th October, 1923, and the Greek Acts of Parliament dated 4th June, 1924, and 24th October, 1924, and the Resolutions of the Council of the League of Nations, dated the 29th day of September, 1923, and the 19th day of September, 1924.

The proceeds of the Loan will be placed at the disposal of the Refugee Settlement Commission, who will apply the same and lands assigned to them by the Greek Government in promoting the establishment of Refugees in productive work upon the land or otherwise in Greece.

The Loan is the direct obligation of the Greek Government, and is repayable during a period of not more than 40 years.

ISSUE OF £7,500,000 7% STERLING BONDS

(Part of a total authorised amount of £12,300,000. The remainder as to £2,500,000 will be issued in Athens, and the balance is reserved for issue in America in Dollars).

The Loan is under the direct control of the INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COMMISSION, who have accepted definitely and irrevocably the order of the Greek Government to retain the amounts necessary for the payment of the interest and amortization of the Loan from

(a) Specific Revenues expressly assigned to them for the service of this Loan,
(b) the yearly surplus of other revenues previously assigned to and administered by them.

In addition the service of the Loan is secured by a first charge on the property and income of the Refugee Settlement Commission.

Official notification that the INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COMMISSION has undertaken the control of this Loan has been communicated to Hambros Bank Limited, under date the 3rd day of December, 1924, by His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

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is authorised by the Greek Government to offer for public subscription £7,500,000 of the above Bonds at the price of 88 per cent. payable as follows:—

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£25	**on 17th February, 1925.**
£28	**on 18th March, 1925.**
£88	

The service of the Loan both as to principal and interest is secured by—

1. A first charge on the following yearly revenues, which have been specially assigned by the Greek Government to the International Financial Commission for the service of this Loan, viz.:—

(*a*) The Revenue Receipts from the Monopolies, *i.e.*, Salt, Matches, Playing-Cards, and Cigarette Paper, in the new Greek Territories;

(*b*) The Revenue Receipts from the Customs of Canea, Candia, Samos, Chios, Mytilene, and Syra;

(*c*) The Revenue Receipts from the Tobacco Duty in the new Greek Territories;

(*d*) The Revenue Receipts from the Stamp Duty in the new Greek Territories;

(*e*) The Revenue Receipts from the Alcohol Duty in the whole of Greece, **which the Greek Government estimate will, on the basis of the returns for the 9 months ending September, 1924, produce for the year 1925** ... **£2,605,308**

(The revenues from the Alcohol Duty are subject to a contingent prior charge of approximately Drachmæ 20,500,000 per annum in favour of the Greek 1920 Internal Loan, if the surplus Revenues hypothecated to its service should prove insufficient.)

2. The yearly surplus of the revenues which are ceded to the International Financial Commission, **which surplus the Greek Government estimate will, on the basis of the returns made for the 9 months ending September, 1924, produce for the service of this Loan for the year 1925**... ... **£2,921,586**

£5,526,894

3. **A first charge upon the property and income of the Refugee Settlement Commission.**

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AN IMPORTANT WATERWAY IN YUGOSLAVIA.

The King Peter I. Canal.

(By Our Zagreb Correspondent.)

From time immemorial the wheat grown in the great Hungarian plain has been world-famous for its excellence, and nowhere is the quality finer or the yield richer than in the region enclosed west and south by the angle of the Danube where it suddenly assumes an easterly course a little to the south of the confluence of the Drava and east by the Tisza on its southerly course into the Danube. It is from the rich alluvial soil deposited by these two great rivers as they modify their course throughout the centuries that this district derives its exceptional fertility. Yet, left to Nature, its agricultural possibilities would be discounted by the existence of wide marshlands and constant danger from flood or drought. To drain off the surplus moisture, regulate the supply of water, and establish a useful connection by water between the Danube and Tisza some fifty odd kilometres north of their natural junction, the two Hungarian military engineers, Josef and Gabriel Kiss, constructed the original old Francis Canal more than a century ago, and floated a company to work it. It was a vast undertaking for those times, and occupied the years between 1795 and 1802. This canal was 118 km. long, and extended from Monostor on the Danube to St. Gradiste on the Tisza. The Imperial Government of that day, recognising the immense value of the canal, assisted the newly constituted company with a 4 per cent. loan of 200,000 florins, and endowed it with certain lands along the canal banks, so that the rentals from these might help the undertaking to pay its way.

After a few years of great prosperity, the canal experienced a set-back through the silting up of the canal mouth at Monostor, owing to fresh deviations in the course of the Danube, and the whole canal was allowed to fall into such disrepair that the company decided in 1827 to make it over as it stood to the Government rather than incur the heavy costs of reconstruction. Negotiations to this effect dragged on until 1842, when Count Francis Zichy was commissioned by the Government to decide whether the canal should be restored or finally abandoned. Fortunately for the whole region, and, indeed, for one of Europe's best granaries, County Zichy allowed his judgment to be swayed by an old German settler, who replied to the Royal Commissioner's inquiries with the oracular dictum: "Alles was mer haba, verdanke mer dem Graba." ("All that we have we owe to the ditch.")

The canal was now taken in hand by the Government. The Danube mouth was transferred from Monostor to Bezdan, and by 1862 the canal was once more in a position to pay its way. The main drawback to it was that at times of low water its supply from the Danube would fail, and that therefore the shipping was subject to frequent interruptions.

In 1870 General Stefan Turr, the well-known expert on canal construction, obtained a 75 years' concession of the canal and canal lands with a view to placing the whole undertaking on a new and far wider basis, and the Francis Canal Company was formed under the Hungarian Laws of 1870, XXXIV., and 1873, XVII. The original share capital of this company was represented by 22,670 shares Series A, at a nominal value of 200 Austrian silver florins, Fl. 4,534,000; 20,090 shares series B, at a nominal value of 200 Austrian silver florins, Fl. 4,018,000; 5,000 preference bonds, at a nominal value of 1,000 Austrian silver florins, Fl. 5,000,000; total: Austrian silver florins, 13,552,000.

Shares Series A and the preference bonds were taken up in England, the chief shareholder being the firm of Messrs. Wythes and Longridge. Hereby the canal company became a semi-British concern, and was duly registered at Somerset House under the name of the Francis Canal Company. The shares of Series B were taken up at their nominal value by the Hungarian State by way of State subsidy to an enterprise of national importance.

Under the terms of the concession the canal was thoroughly reconstructed, a feeder and shipping canal was added, leading northward from Bezdan to Baja, where the permanently higher level of the Danube makes it possible to replenish the canal at all seasons. Finally, a new shipping and irrigation canal was dug from Mali Stapar on the main canal to Novi Sad on the Danube. The only important change made in the course of the canal since then has been that, owing to improved regulation of the river Tisza, the canal mouth at Staro Gradiste had to be transferred to Stari Becej in 1899.

The general specification of the canal system as then completed may be summed up as follows: The so-called "old" canal is 118 kilometres long. The difference in level between the Danube and Tisza is 11.1 metres, spread over four basins, divided from each other and the two rivers by five locks. The double lock at Stari Becej was a memorable construction of its kind at the time, and is still one of the finest locks in the world for inland shipping. It negotiates a fall of 7.20 metres, which is divided into two steps of 3.60 metres each.

The feeder canal is 47.3 kilometres in length, and draws its water supply at Baja, where the level of the Danube is normally at all times 3 metres higher than at the Bezdan canal mouth. The drop from the feeder canal into the main canal is negligibly small. The canals meet at a point 5.8 km. distant from the Bezdan mouth. The bottom width of these canals is 17 metres, and the depth of water 2.00 metres, so that the largest river craft plying on the Danube can freely pass through them.

The length of the shipping and irrigation canal from Mali Stapar to Novi Sad is 64.2 km., and it is divided into four basins. The fall of over 12 metres into the Danube at Novi Sad is negotiated by a double lock at Novi Sad and the lock at the mouth itself 4 km. further. This canal has a bottom width of 11 m., and a depth of 1.55 m. The banks of the canals are constructed of piles or brickwork, and almost everywhere are protected by reed plantations.

In this form the canal system soon became far more than even the main artery of irrigation and traffic—especially the grain traffic—between the Danube and the Tisza. The power derived from its falls drives the machinery of numerous important mills and factories along its banks. Prosperous villages owe their existence to its proximity. The canal company itself owns sawmills, flour mills, and a shipyard at Monostor.

(To be concluded.)

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

P. and O.

The report of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for the year ended September 30 states that the accounts show that, after providing for depreciation, there is a credit balance on the year's accounts, including £101,873 9s. brought forward from last year, of £1,072,997 2s. 4d. The directors propose to deal with this amount as follows:—(1) 5 per cent. dividend on the preferred stock (of which 2½ per cent. was paid as interim dividend), £152,000; (2) 12 per cent. dividend on the deferred stock, free of income-tax (of which 6 per cent. was paid as an interim dividend), £431,102 3s. 2d.; (3) reserve for redemption of debenture stock, £249,150; (4) write off discount on debenture stock and cost of issue, £139,711 5s. 6d.; (5) to carry forward to next year, £101,033 13s. 8d.—£1,072,997 2s. 4d.

The Plassy, Syria, Poona, Palermo, and Palma have been sold for breaking up, the three latter since the accounts were closed. They gave effective service in their day, but were becoming out of date for the company's business. They were all over twenty years old, and expensive to keep up. They stood at merely nominal figures in the books, and the surplus realised on their sale has gone to reduce the book value of the fleet. The Assaye has again been chartered by the Government for trooping work, and continues to be an efficient steamer for this class of business. The Mooltan and Maloja, the two large steamers which were delivered last autumn, have proved to be attractive ships for the company's mail, passenger, and cargo work.

The Express steamer Razmak was launched on October 16, and is now fitting out at Belfast. It is expected she will be ready for her service in the early spring. The Ranpura, building at Messrs. Hawthorn Leslie's works on the Tyne, was launched on September 13, and the Ranchi is expected to be launched before the end of the year. It is hoped the first will be ready for service in the spring of next year. The Rawalpindi and the Rajputana are not expected to be ready until the summer of next year. These four ships are being constructed for the Bombay Mail Line. The Cathay and Comorin were launched on October 31, and it is expected that the first-named will take her place in the Australian Line in March. The Chitral, also for the Australian Line, is expected to be launched in December. The small feeder steamer which appears in the list of fleet as the Bulan has been delivered at Singapore, and, with the Mata Hari, which has been transferred from the British India Company, is performing a regular feeder service each week between Singapore and Penang and other Straits ports.

The insurance fund shows a small increase of £18,081 9s. 9d. since last year. Nothing has been taken from or added to the fund in the profit and loss account. There have, unfortunately, been several losses to place to the debit of the fund during the past year.

The new office at the corner of St. Mary Axe is now completed, and is fully occupied. The remodelling of the old office in Leadenhall Street will be taken in hand as soon as a suitable opportunity occurs. The property previously known as the "Ship and Turtle" adjoining the company's building in Leadenhall Street is under reconstruction so as to fit it for office use as required. The demolition of the old buildings opposite the offices in Leadenhall Street and the construction of up-to-date premises for Lloyd's and other shipping companies, bringing the centre of the shipping world to the neighbourhood, should not detract from the value of the City property. The old Agency House at Hong Kong, situated in the Des Voeux Road, has now been advantageously sold, as it is not now required, our new office building facing the harbour being ready for occupation. The new building is of seven stories, admirably adapted for commercial purposes. The difference realised by the sale of the old building and the amount at which it stood in the books has been applied to a reduction of the book value of the other properties.

Altogether, 258 members of the sea and land staff of the P. and O. Company gave their lives during the Great War, and as a permanent record a memorial in bronze has been installed in the office, outside the board room, and was unveiled by the Chairman in July last. This memorial will be seen by the proprietors attending the meeting.

Trade conditions in all the company's spheres of operation have been very difficult during the last twelve months, caused by the general depression and the feeling of unrest which has been prevalent in almost every direction. Labour conditions have not improved, with the result that most of the ships which the company had looked forward to being ready by the end of this year are still undelivered. The indications of a year ago of a slight improvement in outward trade have not materialised, and latterly the war in China has affected both outward and homeward business with the Far East. So far as the passenger business is concerned, this continues satisfactory. Every effort is being made to satisfy the travelling public and maintain the reputation of the P. and O.

The mail service has been carried on during the past year under some difficulty owing to the loss by enemy action of many of our fine ships; but next year there is every prospect of a reversion to the full pre-war schedule on all lines, as the company hope to resume, at the beginning of the year, their fortnightly service to and from Australia by means of the Cathay class, now under construction. The bulk of the mail continues to increase every year.

The directors feel compelled to state to the stockholders that but for the conservative policy adopted in the past it would not have been possible to propose the dividend which was paid last year, and which they now suggest for the year ended September 30, 1924.

Official returns show that during the first nine months of 1924 8,191 Jewish immigrants entered Palestine (3,226 men, 2,522 women, and 2,443 children). During the same period 1,701 Jews emigrated from Palestine.

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INDIA'S INCREASING IMPORTS.*

Statistics for the Half-Year.

During the six months ended September 30 the value of the import trade into India increased by Rs. 13 crores, or 11 per cent., as compared with the corresponding period of 1923. The total exports of the country, including re-exports, increased by Rs. 5 crores, or 3 per cent., while the exports of Indian merchandise alone showed an increase of Rs. 4½ lakhs, or 3 per cent. The grand total of imports, exports, and re-exports amounted to Rs. 292 crores, as against Rs. 274 crores, i.e., an increase of 7 per cent.

India's visible balance of trade in merchandise and treasure during the six months was over Rs. 17 crores. The balance of trade in merchandise alone is in favour of India to the extent of nearly Rs. 48 crores. Of this amount Rs. 17½ crores have been met by net imports of gold and silver, while a further Rs. 26½ crores represent Council Bills, purchases of sterling, and other Government remittances to the United Kingdom, most of this representing, in fact, sterling purchases in India. As might be expected, exchange has remained firm throughout the period, and stood at 1s. 5 21-32d. T.T. on the last day of September.

Although the total imports from the United Kingdom rose from 65 to nearly 67 crores, the proportionate British share fell from 59 per cent. to 54 per cent. Germany, however, increased her proportion of the total imports from 5 per cent. to 6 per cent., Japan from 6 per cent. to nearly 7 per cent., Belgium from 2 per cent. to 2.7 per cent., and Italy from 1 per cent. to nearly 1½ per cent. Imports from the United States remained fairly stationary at about 6 per cent. on the whole.

The total imports of twist and yarn rose from 23 million lb. to 30 million lb. This is almost entirely accounted for by greatly increased imports from Japan, which rose from 10 million lb. to 17½ million lb. This advance was mainly in 40's counts. Imports from the United Kingdom fell from 12 million lb. to under 11 million lb., while imports from Switzerland rose from 498,000 lb. to 629,000 lb.

One of the most noteworthy features of the period under review has been a very heavy increase in the imports of unbleached goods from 317 million yards, valued at 9,89 lakhs, to 410 million yards, valued at Rs. 13,80 lakhs. It is most satisfactory to note that this increase is almost entirely accounted for by heavier shipments from the United Kingdom, whose share rose from 273 million yards, valued at 8,29 lakhs, to 359 million yards, valued at Rs. 11,91 lakhs. Our principal competitor, Japan, only increased her shipments from 42 million yards, valued at Rs. 153 lakhs, to 47 million yards, valued at Rs. 176 lakhs. A noteworthy feature has been the revival of trade in grey shirtings, etc., particularly for the Bengal market, which shows that Lancashire makers are still able to compete with the Japanese and with the Bombay mills in these goods.

As regards piecegoods—white (bleached)—there has been a most satisfactory advance in the total trade from 220 million yards, valued at Rs. 8,00 lakhs, to 274 million yards, valued at Rs. 10,18 lakhs, in which the United Kingdom has taken its full share. British shipments of whites rose from 215 million yards, valued at Rs. 764 lakhs, to 267 million yards, valued at Rs. 972 lakhs.

Under the heading piecegoods—coloured, printed or dyed—the showing has not been so good. In the corresponding period of 1923 the imports were 183 million yards, valued at Rs. 914 lakhs, while during the period under review they were 193 million yards, valued at Rs. 10,00 lakhs. British imports were actually reduced in quantity from 166 million yards to 164 million yards, but the value rose slightly from Rs. 810 to Rs. 844 lakhs. A most remarkable advance has been made in the case of Italy, which increased its shipments from 2 million yards, valued at Rs. 17 lakhs, to nearly 4 million yards, valued at Rs. 32 lakhs. Japan also nearly doubled its shipments, from 8½ million yards, valued at Rs. 31 lakhs, to 16½ million yards, valued at Rs. 63 lakhs. Imports from Switzerland also rose slightly. Italian competition in dyed and coloured woven goods is persistent, and is likely to continue.

The advance in the trade in woollen piecegoods has been extraordinary. The total shipments doubled from 3½ million yards, valued at Rs. 86 lakhs, to 7 million yards, valued at Rs. 154 lakhs. Bradford and other shippers are holding their own fairly well, imports from the United Kingdom advancing from Rs. 48 lakhs to Rs. 93 lakhs. German imports were stationary, but those from France rose from Rs. 9 to Rs. 16 lakhs, and those from Italy from Rs. 2 to Rs. 12 lakhs. Although the French and Italian share of the trade is small as compared with that of the United Kingdom, it is growing rapidly, and Continental prices in many lines are much below British rates.

The total imports of machinery and mill work fell from Rs. 1034 to Rs. 717 lakhs, owing to the industrial depression in India, which still continues. The British share shrank from Rs. 885 to Rs. 596 lakhs, and that of the United States from Rs. 104 to Rs. 76 lakhs. Germany's share rose slightly from Rs. 19 to Rs. 21 lakhs. The United Kingdom still supplies over 83 per cent. of the total imports of machinery, and on the whole is satisfactorily maintaining its position in this valuable trade.

The total imports of railway plant, etc., fell from Rs. 604 to Rs. 374 lakhs. The British share was reduced from Rs. 559 to Rs. 346 lakhs. As usual, there was little competition. The United States supplied Rs. 10 lakhs worth, Belgium Rs. 5½ lakhs, and all other countries just under Rs. 12 lakhs. These figures, of course, refer to imports for the company-worked railways. The imports on Government account amounted to an additional Rs. 42 lakhs in value.

The trade in iron bars and channels remained fairly stationary at Rs. 7½ lakhs value, of which the United Kingdom supplies were valued at Rs. 3½ lakhs, Belgian at over Rs. 2 lakhs, and Swedish at Rs. 1½ lakhs. There has been a heavy advance in the total imports of steel bars owing to the increased shipments from the Continent immediately before the imposition of the protective steel duty. During the six months the total trade rose from Rs. 90 to Rs. 141 lakhs. The British share rose from Rs. 13 to nearly Rs. 14 lakhs, whereas that of Germany advanced from Rs. 13 to Rs. 21 lakhs, that of Belgium from Rs. 58 to Rs. 89 lakhs, and that of Luxemburg from Rs. 3 to Rs. 10 lakhs. As regards beams, channels, pillars, girders, and bridge work, there has been a considerable advance in the total trade from Rs. 58 to Rs. 68 lakhs. The British share increased from Rs. 38 to Rs. 39 lakhs, while that of Belgium rose from Rs. 18 to Rs. 22 lakhs.

There has been a slight falling off in the total imports of bolts and nuts from Rs. 14½ to Rs. 14 lakhs. The British share fell from Rs. 8½ to Rs. 5½ lakhs, and that of Belgium from Rs. 4 to Rs. 2 lakhs. German shipments, however, advanced from a negligible quantity to Rs. 3 lakhs,

*From an analysis by H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India (Mr. T. M. Ainscough, O.B.E.).

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and American supplies from Rs. 1 to nearly Rs. 2 lakhs.

The total trade in hoops and strips receded from Rs. 25½ lakhs to Rs. 24 lakhs. British shipments fell from Rs. 22 to Rs. 14 lakhs, whereas those of Belgium increased from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 lakhs, and of the United States from a negligible quantity to nearly Rs. 3 lakhs. The total imports of nails, rivets, and washers (other than wire nails) remained stationary at a little over Rs. 28 lakhs. The British share, however, fell from Rs. 13½ to Rs. 11 lakhs. Swedish supplies rose from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 lakhs, and German from Rs. 1 to Rs. 3½ lakhs. The trade in galvanised sheets and plates still shows expansion, the total imports rising from 71,500 tons, valued at Rs. 226 lakhs, to 96,000 tons, valued at Rs. 290 lakhs. The United Kingdom supplied no less than Rs. 285 lakhs of the latter total, and met with practically no competition. The trade in tin plates fell from Rs. 88 lakhs to Rs. 78 lakhs. British shipments fell from Rs. 76 to Rs. 44 lakhs, but imports of American tin plates rose from Rs. 12 to Rs. 34 lakhs, mainly for account of the oil companies. The imports of sheets and plates, not galvanised or tinned, advanced slightly from Rs. 80 to Rs. 83 lakhs. British supplies were reduced from Rs. 54 to Rs. 30 lakhs, whereas those from Belgium rose from Rs. 15 to Rs. 33 lakhs, and from Germany from Rs. 9 to Rs. 15½ lakhs. The trade in wrought tubes, pipes, and fittings advanced from Rs. 44 to Rs. 60 lakhs. The British share rose only from Rs. 32 to Rs. 37 lakhs, whereas that of Germany increased from Rs. 2 to Rs. 11 lakhs, and that of Holland from Rs. 1 to Rs. 5 lakhs. Shipments from the United States fell from Rs. 7 to Rs. 2 lakhs. The imports of wire nails rose from Rs. 15 to Rs. 22 lakhs, of which the United Kingdom supplied no more than a lakh. The German share advanced from Rs. 7 to Rs. 11 lakhs, and the Belgian from Rs. 5 to Rs. 8½ lakhs.

The total imports of wrought copper during the past six months attained a value of Rs. 71 lakhs. Of this Germany supplied Rs. 43 lakhs, the United Kingdom Rs. 13 lakhs, and the United States Rs. 14 lakhs. Here again Germany increased her share from Rs. 10 lakhs in 1922 to Rs. 17 lakhs in 1923 and Rs. 43 lakhs in the period under review.

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The total trade in hardware (excluding cutlery and electro-plated ware) rose from Rs. 222 to Rs. 264 lakhs. The United Kingdom supplied Rs. 102 lakhs, Germany Rs. 71 lakhs, the United States Rs. 44 lakhs, and Japan Rs. 12 lakhs. The reversion of the trade to German suppliers is noteworthy. Germany in 1922 shipped Rs. 60 lakhs' worth, in 1923 Rs. 45 lakhs' worth, and in 1924 no less than Rs. 71 lakhs' worth. Her shipments cover a wide range of builders' hardware, domestic hardware, and the hundred and one cheap meretricious articles for the bazaar trade. American competition was keenest in metal lamps, implements, and tools, while Austria supplied approximately Rs. 7 lakhs' worth of enamelled ironware.

Of a total import of electrical instruments and apparatus of Rs. 89 lakhs, the United Kingdom shipped Rs. 60 lakhs' worth, Germany Rs. 11 lakhs' worth, and the United States Rs. 9 lakhs worth. British cables still virtually control the market, but there is considerable competition from Holland and the United States in electric lamps, and from Germany in cheap fittings and accessories.

The valuable trade in provisions and oilman's stores increased from Rs. 117 to Rs. 170 lakhs. The British share rose from Rs. 54 to Rs. 66 lakhs, that of the Straits Settlements from Rs. 18 to Rs. 26 lakhs, that of the United States from Rs. 11 to Rs. 12 lakhs, that of Holland from Rs. 8 to Rs. 17 lakhs, while the imports from unenumerated countries rose from Rs. 13 to Rs. 35 lakhs.

The imports of motor-cars advanced from 3,120 cars, valued at Rs. 75 lakhs, to 4,527 cars, valued at Rs. 103 lakhs. Arrivals from the United Kingdom rose from 180 cars, valued at Rs. 10 lakhs, to 427 cars, valued at Rs. 17½ lakhs. The lower average value per car shows that the present high rates of duty are having the effect of driving the higher priced English vehicles out of the market in favour of the products of the United States and Canada. Imports from Canada rose from 1,264 cars, valued at Rs. 22 lakhs, to 2,015 cars, valued at Rs. 34½ lakhs, while those from the United States advanced from 1,274 cars, valued at Rs. 30 lakhs, to 1,896 cars, valued at Rs. 45 lakhs. The trade in Continental motors appears to be on the decline. The total trade in motor-cycles increased from 431 cycles, valued at Rs. 3½ lakhs, to 653, valued at Rs. 4½ lakhs. British shipments rose from 258, valued at Rs. 2 lakhs, to 489, valued at Rs. 3½ lakhs. Imports from America also advanced from 110, valued at Rs. 1¼ lakhs, to 135, valued, however, at only just over a lakh.

There has been a noteworthy expansion in the trade in bicycles during the past three years, the figures for the first half-year of 1922 being Rs. 15 lakhs, 1923 Rs. 28 lakhs, and 1924 Rs. 36 lakhs. During the last period the United Kingdom supplies were valued at over Rs. 30 lakhs, or approximately 90 per cent., German at Rs. 5½ lakhs, and all other countries half a lakh.

There has also been a considerable expansion in the imports of motor-omnibuses, motor-vans, and lorries from 482 vehicles, valued at Rs. 13 lakhs, to 843, valued at Rs. 18 lakhs. Although the number of British lorries imported rose from 32 to 43, the value declined from Rs. 3.7 lakhs to Rs. 3 lakhs. During the period under review America supplied 311 lorries, and other countries, unspecified, 489.

A Report on Somaliland for 1923 (No. 1,226, price 6d.) is issued by the Colonial Office. It is stated that during the last nine months of the year the country enjoyed more complete immunity from internal trouble than at any time for the past twenty years. There are 467 miles of motor roads in the Protectorate.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Quiet.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended November 27, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has been quieter, but the undertone has remained firm; the net changes on the week are the following :— Sakellaridis : $0.23 up for January, $0.05 down for March, $0.15 down for May, $0.55 down for November, 1925. Ashmouni : $0.70 down for December, $0.50 down for February, $0.40 down for April, $0.35 down for October, 1925. The demand from abroad has slackened slightly, but has remained sufficiently strong to keep the spot market active and about balance the weight of the daily heavy arrivals. Sakel has again had the larger proportion of the demand, and its premium over Ashmouni has further widened, touching at to-day's close $15.98. Local speculators have been fairly active, but have confined their dealings almost exclusively to Sakel. This week's easier tone of New York and the cheaper level of prices there as compared to Ashmouni, in conjunction with the reduced demand for it, have contributed to its weaker tone; as a matter of fact, Ashmounis have been, of late, rather neglected. At the third November tender 12,500 krs. dockets were issued. We do not think that politics can have more than a temporary and sentimental effect on the market, and maintain our opinion of a further appreciation of Sakel in the course of the season; as regards Uppers, the course of prices will, we think, depend to a great extent upon American cotton fluctuations. The week's receipts amount to 386,398 krs., against exports 250,343 krs.; the stock stands at 1,901,479 krs.

Spot.—We have had a week of active markets at Minet el Bassal, and sales amount to about 29,800 B/s, of which we estimate 15,250 B/s Sakellarides, 7,900 B/s Uppers, 5,300 B/s Zagora, 1,000 B/s Pilion, 150 B/s Brown, and 200 B/s White. Arrivals continue heavy, and we think that the movement in Upper Egypt has increased somewhat. More of this growth is now offering on the spot than for some time past. Rains have interfered with the movement in Lower Egypt during the past week to some extent.

Sakellarides.—There has been a good demand for all grades. The better qualities, especially Fully Good Fair/Good, have met with most demand. The low grades are comparatively neglected. Spot parities are without quotable change; for Fully Good Fair/Good and above they are very firm.

Uppers.—A good business has been done in all styles, but spot parities are inclined to ease a little. There is rather more disposition to sell on the part of several holders.

Zagora.—Continues in good request, especially the higher grades. Spot parities are well maintained for Good and better; for other qualities they are inclined to go cheaper. This growth is tending more to approximate to the same value as Upper Egyptian, as consumers begin to realise its spinning merits.

Pilion.—A good business has been done. Spot parities have eased further from last week.

Brown.—A small business has been done. Spot parities are generally cheaper.

White.—A fair business has been done in medium and good grades. Spot parities are without change.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Position Practically Unchanged.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended December 6 states :—

Little change has taken place in the condition of this market during the past week. Demand has again been unevenly distributed, with the consequence that the experiences of various sections have been widely different.

The final report of the American Agricultural Bureau regarding the current crop is due for publication on Monday next. Private reports during the last few days have been uniformly in the direction of an increase in the last estimate of the total yield, and it is possible that a certain amount of demand for yarn and cloth is being held back until these final figures become known.

Yarn.

Demand has not been at all active, and the position of spinners of American cotton has, if anything, become slightly weaker. There has been a fall in the price of their raw material, but it is probable that the concessions which they have had to make in their own prices have been at least equal to the benefit they have gained therefrom.

In Egyptian spinnings a somewhat better state of affairs has prevailed in spite of the very firm attitude on the part of spinners necessitated by a further advance in their raw material.

Cloth.

The principal item of note in this department has been a fair revival of inquiry and buying from China. India and other markets have continued to operate in only a quiet way. Demand at present chiefly runs on lines for early delivery, as buyers apparently have not sufficient confidence to commit themselves very far ahead.

Raw Cotton.

As mentioned above, conditions in America have been favourably reported upon, and the consequence has been an almost daily fall in quotations, the aggregate on the week being over ½d. per lb.: the final quotation for "spot" is under 13d. for the first time for over two years. Egyptian has again been a strong market, and the general position in this section can only be regarded as disquieting.

Closing quotations yesterday were as follows :— American Middling, 12.98; last week, 13.59. Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 26.75; last week, 26.20.

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LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Steady Inquiry for Sudan Sakel.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended December 3 :—

Egyptian Spot.—Conditions have remained practically unchanged in our market since last we wrote. The recent shipments from Egypt have included a very large proportion of cotton bought for forward delivery by spinners some time ago, and the trade at the moment appears to be fairly well supplied with Egyptian cotton. As a consequence, business on the spot has continued on very moderate lines, and the daily inquiry has further dwindled. Prices, however, have remained very steady, particularly for Sakellaridis, and it is significant to find that any sudden advance in the futures market, which in itself might possess no significance at all, at once brings in its train a small flood of active inquiries from Manchester. Interest in Sakellaridis cotton has not been marked this week, but what there was has centred chiefly round Fully Good Fair to Good cotton at from 26½d. to 28d. There have been a few isolated inquiries for the Best, but spinners are very unwilling to pay the prices asked, and no business has resulted. The lower grades have been entirely neglected.

The inquiry for Uppers has been on broader lines, but the basis both here and in Alexandria has shown a tendency to ease slightly. Prices have been proved to be somewhat irregular. Good Uppers of good staple have obtained from 17¾d. to 18½d. per lb., but there is a quantity of bright, leafy, cotton of short staple which is selling at anything from 17d. to 17½d. per lb. A small demand for Pilion has been in evidence, but it is only the very best which finds favour, and this has changed hands at about 25 points off January Egyptian contracts. Brown and White cotton have again failed to arouse any interest amongst buyers. In Sudan cotton, a small but steady inquiry persists for the Sakel variety, but this is now practically finished for the year. A small turnover has, we believe, been effected at round about 24d. The demand for White Sudan has continued good, but only a very small business has resulted. This cotton also is now practically unobtainable, although it should not be long now before some new crop arrivals begin to appear. C.i.f. business has been quiet on the whole. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 28th ult. were returned as 17,128 bales. Estimated sales 1,300 Egypts and 110 Sudan. Quotation of Uppers and Brown have been officially reduced 40 points. Sakellaridis remains unchanged on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 26d.

SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Jaffa, November 15.

Approximately 40,000 cases of oranges were shipped to the United Kingdom during the week. It is estimated that there will be a million and a-half cases for export this season.

Hamadan, November 8.

The import market is quiet. There are small buyers of sugar (loaf) at 10¾ krans per batman of 3 kilos. The price of cotton goods has fallen 10 per cent. owing to the fall in the rupee. There is a small demand for rugs and carpets.

Cyprus, November 15.

The crops have greatly benefited by abundant rains. Exports of carobs to Spain and the United Kingdom continue; also of cattle to Greece.

Jaffa, November 22.

A great deal of rain fell during the week, and owing to the stormy weather very few oranges were shipped. Market prices are unchanged.

Basrah, November 8.

There is nothing of importance to report. Rain has been lacking. Large areas of land have been dried up, and the farmers are waiting for the rain in order to commence the sowing.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses :—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Tarantia for Bombay (Liverpool, December 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mandasor for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 13).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 17).

British India Line.—S.s. Naringa for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 20); s.s. Manora for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 20).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of York for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 20).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S s. Grodno for Gibraltar, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, and Smyrna (London, December 17).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 27); m.v. Tramore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 3).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Narkunda for Bombay (London, December 12); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 13).

Prince Line.—S.s. Korean Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, December 17).

The quantity of gold extracted from the mines in India during the month of September amounted to 35,824 oz., valued at Rs. 19,58,444.

TEXTILES.

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Passenger sailing dates:—

*Castalia, Dec. 16.	*Circassia, Feb. 27.
*Scindia, Jan. 16.	*Olympia, Mar. 13.
*Massilia, Jan. 30.	*Castalia, Apr. 1.
*Elysia, Feb. 11.	*Scindia, Apr. 28.

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Engineering Topics.

America's 50,000,000 Tyres.

An interesting comparison between America's tyre consumption and our own is made by Sir George Beharrell, managing director of the Dunlop Rubber Company, in an interview on his return from the United States.

"I am more and more impressed," he said, "with the great strides the automobile industry has made over there. In every large city in America all through the busy hours of the day you see miles of cars parked, and it is not difficult to understand how the country consumes fifty million tyres a year. Familiarity with the automobile does not, however, appear to have bred respect; certainly American cars do seem to get less care and attention from their owners than British cars do over here.

"As far as pleasure motoring goes, golf is running it closer and closer for popularity in America every year. There is no question about the golf boom in the United States; indeed, we are selling almost as many golf balls over there as here, and the day is within sight when the number of our golf balls used in America may exceed the number used in this country.

"Business men in America," he added, "comment very freely on the similarity of thought in the electorate of England and the United States, and the combination of these two results seems to have given an impetus not only to trade in America, but also to trade between the United States and Europe."

Vickers and International Combustion Engineering.

Vickers and International Combustion Engineering, Ltd., have received an order for a complete boiler-house equipment, to include two water-tube boilers fired with pulverised fuel, this being the first section of a plant which will eventually be six times the size. The boilers are of the Thompson type, each having 9,000 sq. ft. of heating surface, and constructed for a working pressure of 275 lb. per square inch and superheat 650° F., the normal evaporation being 50,000 lb. of steam per hour, and the peak load 87,000 lb. Each boiler has an economiser of the Foster type, having 4,000 sq. ft. of heating surface, which will give a temperature rise of 100° F.; also a pre-heater of 7,000 sq. ft., to raise the temperature of the air to about 300° F.

The furnace is of the Lopulco type, essential features being the water screen at the bottom for the purpose of collecting the ashes in a dry, powdered condition, and water-cooled side walls, each having 100 sq. ft. of heating surface. The fuel will consist of coke and fuel duff which contains 15 per cent. of volatiles, and the air of combustion is pre-heated to about 300° F. in order to ensure good ignition of the mixed fuel.

The contract includes a complete coal-handling plant to deal with 75 tons of fuels per hour, with an automatic skip hoist to deliver the coal or the coke to independent bunkers; also two conveyor belts to drop either fuel into the receiving hopper in correct amounts, according to the speeds of the belts.

The fuel, in pieces to pass through a 1½-in. diameter ring, goes through a steam drier to reduce the moisture to below 10 per cent., and then to two Raymond six-roller mills, in which it is pulverised fine enough for 95 per cent. to pass through a 100-mesh sieve. A current of air lifts the fine powdered fuel to cyclones situated at the top of the boiler-house, and from the bottom of these cyclones the fuel is carried to the boiler bunkers by means of screw conveyors. The bottom of each bunker has a group of five screw feeders, which feed the pulverised fuel to five burners fixed on the flat suspended arch of the combustion chamber. Forced draught will blow the air of combustion through the air pre-heaters and deliver it into the Lopulco furnace through numerous air ports in the front wall, and an induced draught fan draws the gases of combustion into a conical-shaped chimney.

"THE INTERNATIONAL MERCANTILE DIARY AND YEAR BOOK."

"The International Mercantile Diary and Year-Book" for 1925, which has just made its appearance, is in its ninth year, and comes into the category of those books of reference which are really indispensable to the business man. Its utility may be indicated by a brief synopsis of some of the invaluable information it contains. There are foreign exchange conversion tables, a freight calculation table, and an international section giving just those details of foreign countries that are required in commerce. It is published by Syren and Shipping, Ltd., at 7s. 6d.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

General Stores.—The Ministry of War invites tenders for the supply of general stores and clothing required by the Frontier Districts Administration for the year 1925-26. The goods required include permanent stores, oils, paints, varnishes, and other consumable stores, and clothing and cloth. Tenders, on the proper form, must reach the Director of Stores, Frontier Districts Administration, Alexandria, not later than noon on January 14, 1925. It should also be noted that samples of permanent stores, oils, paints, etc., should reach the F.D.A. Arsenal ten days before the date fixed for opening tenders. (D.O.T.)

Clothing, etc.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, equipment, tents, etc., required for the year 1925-1926. January 16.

Calico and Sash.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza (Mudiriya), invites tenders for the supply of calico and sash required for the next financial year, 1925-1926. February 10.

Turkey.

Barbed Wire.—The Commission des achats des chemins de fer d'Anatolie invite tenders for the supply of five tons of galvanised barbed wire. (D.O.T.)

GUARDIAN EASTERN INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: 68, KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

Subscribed Capital - - - £650,000
Paid-up Capital - - - £130,000

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CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - - £390,000

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Branches in Persia:— Chief Office, TEHERAN.
Ahwaz, Barfrush, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdah, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Maidan-i-Naftun, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad (Seistan), Resht, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz, Yezd

Branches in Iraq (Mesopotamia):—Bagdad, Basra.
Branch in India:—Bombay.
The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

London Office: 33-36, KING WILLIAM ST., E.C.4; Chief Office in Persia: TEHERAN

IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

Established 1839.

Capital Authorised - - - - £600,000
Capital Paid up - - - - £485,580
Reserve Fund - - - - - £170,000
Total Assets - - - - - £5,013,834

HEAD OFFICE:
Basildon House, Moorgate, LONDON.

GREECE.
Central Office:
ATHENS.
14 Branches.

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Central Office:
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Local Head Offices:—
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Managing Governors in India:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.
N. M. MURRAY, Esq.
Manager in London:—
S. A. H. SITWELL, Esq.

Authorised Capital - - Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - - Rs. 5.62.50.000
Reserve - - - - - - Rs. 4.57.50.000

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London Branch: 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... ... £4,000,000 | Paid-up Capital £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... ... £4,000,000 | Reserve Fund £2,750,000

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Aden, Aden, Steamer Point, Amritsar, Bombay | Calcuttta, Cawnpore, Chittagong, Cochin (S. India) | Colombo, Delhi, Kandy, Karachi | Lahore, Madras, Mandalay, Newera Eliya | Rangoon, Tuticorin, Zanzibar | Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru (Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)) | Entebbe, Jinia, Kampala (Uganda)

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The Bank purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.
The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.
The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.
Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.
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(A Limited Liability Company Registered in Athens.)

CAPITAL PAID UP - Drs. 30,000,000
RESERVE FUNDS - Drs. 29,266,341.40

The assets include securities worth £1,000,000, which are valued at Drs. 25,000,000; that is, at the rate of Drs. 25 per £1 only.

Head Office: ATHENS.

Branches: Piraeus, Argos, Pyrgos, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Nauplia, Vostizza (Aegion), Calamata, Syra, Chio, Candia, Volo, Salonica, Larrissa, Triccala, Mitylene, Canea, Zante, Plomari, Tripolitza.

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The Bank conducts every kind of Banking and Stock Exchange business, and extends special facilities to merchants and traders interested in business with Greece. It acts as Agent for many Foreign Banks. It is specially organised for Exchange transactions, the execution of mail and cable transfers throughout Greece, and for the collection of clean and documentary Drafts and Bills.

MERCHANDISE DEPARTMENT.

The Bank undertakes the warehousing and sale of goods consigned.

BANK of ATHENS

Head Office: ATHENS.

ESTABLISHED 1893

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38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

CAPITAL, £3,000,000. RESERVE FUND, £3,900,000.

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BATAVIA	HANKOW	MEDAN	SOURABAYA
BOMBAY	HONGKONG	NEW YORK	TAIPING (F.M.S.)
CALCUTTA	ILOILO	PEKING	TAVOY (Lower Burma)
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CAWNPORE	KARACHI	PUKET	TOKYO
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COLOMBO	KOBE	SAIGON	ZAMBOANGA
	KUALA LUMPUR	SEMARANG (Java)	(PhilippineIslands)

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The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts and transact general business connected with the East, DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

The Bank is prepared to undertake Trusteeships and Executorships.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED

Head Office: 2 & 3, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Authorised Capital (200,000 Shares of £10 each) - £2,000,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders - - - - £1,000,000
Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £340,000

Branches: BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, KARACHI, MADRAS, COLOMBO, BAGDAD, BASRA, AMARA, HILLAH, MOSUL, BAHREIN.

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G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
J. H. BATTY, Esq.
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The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency Business in connection with the East.

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F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

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Head Office: LONDON.

(Affiliated with Barclays Bank, Ltd.).

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SUDAN.—Makwar, Omdurman, Khartoum, Port Sudan, Wad Medani. PALESTINE.—Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Nazareth.
MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta, Gibraltar.

Subscribed Capital - - - - £1,800,000
Paid-up Capital - - - - £600,000
Reserve - - - - - - £720,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

FULLY PAID CAPITAL - - - - - - - - £3,000,000
RESERVE FUND - - - - - - - - £2,325,000

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(Under Contract with His Majesty's Government.)

Steamer.	Tons.	London.	M'rse'ls.	Destination
*MOREA	11,000	—	Dec. 12	Straits, China Japan
NARK'NDA	16,000	Dec. 12	Dec. 19	Bombay & Karachi
†NANKIN	7 000	Dec. 13	—	Colombo & Calcutta
†KASHMIR	9,00)	Dec. 19	—	Straits, China, Japan
*MOOLTAN	21,000	Dec. 19	Dec. 26	Colombo & Australia
NALDERA	16,000	Dec. 26	Jan. 2	Bombay & Karachi
*MALWA	11,000	Jan. 2	Jan. 9	Straits, China, Japan
†KAISAR-I-H'D	11,480	Jan. 9	Jan. 16	Bombay & Karachi

* Taking passengers for Bombay, via Aden. † Calling at Malta.

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(Under Contract with the Govts. of India and Queensland.)

Steamer.	Tons.	M'bro.	London.	Destination.
§NARINGA	6,607	—	Dec 2)	Bombay & Karachi
MANORA	7,888	—	Dec. 20	Madras & Calcutta
§TREGENNA	5,242	Dec. 13	Dec. 24	East African Ports
WANG'RATTA	7,897	—	Jan. —	Queensland Ports
¶†MORVADA	8,193	Dec. 20	Jan. 2	Bombay & Karachi
†MANTOLA	9,968	Dec. 20	Jan. 3	Madras & alcutta
*MANDALA	9,246	Jan. 3	Jan. 16	Bombay & Karachi
†MERKARA	8,235	Jan. 3	Jan. 17	Madras & Calcutta

Ships marked § will not take passengers. ¶ Calls Malta.
* Calling Algiers.
† Leaving Antwerp one week after Middlesbrough date.

ADDRESS: For Passage, P. & O. HOUSE, 14, COCKSPUR STREET, LONDON, S.W.1; Freight or General Business: P. & O. or B.I. COMPANIES, 122, LEADENHALL STREET, E.C.3; B.I. Agents: GRAY, DAWES & CO., 122, LEADENHALL STREET, E.C.3.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Position in Egypt.

The number of arrests in Egypt in connection with the murder of Sir Lee Stack continues to increase, and, in spite of the lapse of time since the event, and the disappearance of certain suspects, the hope is entertained that the actual criminals will ultimately be brought to book. Ziwar Pasha has given further evidence of his courage in dealing with the situation by appointing as his Minister of the Interior Ismail Sidki Pasha, who, as a secessionist from the Wafd, is anathema to the Zaghloulists. Sidki Pasha claims to belong to no party; he has come forward at this stage to help the Prime Minister to clear Egypt of the reproach that none of her politicians dares to have a policy of his own, but must obsequiously conform, as Zaghloul Pasha did, to what mob clamour ordains. Both he and Ziwar Pasha expose themselves at the hands of the Zaghloulists to the jibe of being British tools. They have had, however, the strength of character to face the odium of an unjust charge, and we may hope that they will remain long enough in office to convince their fellow-countrymen that, if there has been any "playing into the hands of the British," it has been on the part of Zaghloul Pasha and not on their part. One day when Egypt has had time for reflection, the harm that Zaghloul Pasha has done to his country's interests will perhaps be recognised, whatever credit may be his for having hastened the day of independence. His hold on the popular imagination has synchronised with the adoption of murder and assassination as a political weapon, and, although British subjects may have been the immediate victims, every responsible Egyptian knows that with each fresh crime authority in the country has been further undermined. As Prime Minister he gave in no single direction a constructive lead to the country, but brought constitutional government into disrepute by surrounding himself with unofficial advisers who merely pandered to his weakness for popularity.

Time for Reflection.

It is not in the interests of Great Britain to have in Cairo a puppet Ministry not representative of the country. The British Government wishes to deal with Egypt, not with a few individuals who cannot speak with authority for their countrymen. In Ziwar Pasha's Cabinet it hopes to be able to treat with an Egypt sober, in the place of the Egypt drunk that alone it knew under the Zaghloulist régime. The event must prove whether Egypt is capable within a reasonable time of recovering from the orgies of intoxication in which Zaghloul Pasha indulged it. The signs are at least favourable, although it is too early to speak with any degree of certainty. For Egypt, the one thing needful is that no untoward incident should disturb the even tenour of the next few months. Great Britain has come down upon her, in common parlance, with a sledge-hammer. The need was imperative. The assassination of the Sirdar was no isolated incident, but the climax of an organised policy of murder, which was supposed to be playing the Egyptian Government's game. It was absolutely essential that Great Britain should act in a way that would appeal even to the half-baked intelligence of those who, with their demonstrations in front of his house, determined Zaghloul Pasha's policy. As was to be expected, the idol of street popularity at once deserted his post and the nation, and left it to others to extricate the country out of the mess into which he had brought it.

British Policy.

Great Britain is perfectly well aware that a lasting settlement of the difficulties in Egypt can be achieved only in agreement with the Egyptian people themselves, and of recent years she has had no other policy than to reach agreement in this way. Zaghloul Pasha was neither strong enough nor honourable enough to respond to the British gesture of 1922, when Egypt received her independence, and it was left to her honour to fulfil her part of the bargain at a later date. It has been necessary, therefore, for Britain to recover her freedom of action in regard to negotiations with Egypt. This, it may be said, is the explanation of the items of the

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ultimatum which seemed to go beyond the immediate cause of its despatch. The desire for a friendly agreement with Egypt remains, and if the Egyptians can shake themselves free from Zaghloulist folly, and realise that circumstances impose certain restrictions on their relations with Great Britain, there would seem to be no reason why Egypt should not presently revert to the conditions which the British Government contemplated in February, 1922. Any move in this direction, however, it cannot be too strongly emphasised, should be left to British initiative, for which a period of loyal acceptance on Egypt's part of the consequences of her folly and crime is an essential preliminary. British politicians can give a useful lead to the Egyptians in this matter by setting an example of implicit trust in the Government to vindicate the nation's honour, which calls equally for a firm hand and a generous settlement.

Constitution Tinkering.

Whether the proposal attributed to M. Papanastasiou that the tenure of the Greek Premiership by any Minister should be limited to one year will be seriously considered in Greece remains to be seen. In the country's interests it is to be hoped that it will be regarded as a cynical witticism on the author's part. The ostensible reason for such a solecism in the new Constitution is either to discourage the numerous politicians who are credited with designs upon the post or to offer them an orderly prospect of satisfying their ambitions with the flux of time. As the year 1924 holds the "record" of "six, not out," in the matter of Greek Prime Ministers, it would be thought that the object to be sought is length of tenure for the occupants of the post. To this end the change necessary in Greek politics is that parties should become identified with fundamental questions of policy and not merely with personalities. The present Cabinet of M. Michalokopoulos is doing its best to break new ground in this direction, and for this reason deserves the widest support in Greece; but it attains power after changes in the Premiership have already been rung five times in the twelve months, and its task is admittedly a difficult one. Yet, if he can count on the loyalty of two of his colleagues, M. Michalokopoulos may prove to be *felix opportunitate*. Greece is wearied of politics; the economic situation of the country is wonderfully buoyant, and the possibility of turning to good purpose the tragic expulsion of Greeks from Turkey has seized the popular mind. Furthermore, there are several urgent questions of the day, of an economic, not political, character, calling for solution, and the Greek people will be tempted to bless the man who is able to keep his hand on the tiller long enough to bring the ship of State into a happier harbour than it will have known for a generation or more.

Angora and Constantinople.

An interesting report has been issued by a Commission appointed to inquire into the causes of the decline of Constantinople, and to make suggestions for its improvement. It is not possible here to summarise its findings; but the important part is that the future of the city should have engaged the attention of the Angora authorities to the extent of prompting them to agree to a commission of inquiry. The people of Constantinople have long laboured under a feeling of neglect on the part of the Government, when they have not had to complain of what seemed to be active hostility in the form of vexatious regulations which threatened to interfere with the prosperity of the city and port. The Angora Government is probably to be acquitted on the charge of having deliberately sought to "down" Constantinople; in any case, there has been time for it to appreciate the value of the biggest revenue-producing centre in the Republic, and it will be of interest to see whether action will be taken on the lines recommended by the Commission. These include the provision of funds to enable the development of real property, and here the question of Turkey's finances comes into prominence. We can but hope that the appointment of the Commission, its findings, and the reception accorded them by the Turkish Government will convince business and financial interests in Great Britain that things are gradually moving in Turkey, and that this is the psychological moment for a definite display of sympathetic interest in the future development of the country. It is not claimed that Turkey has ceased to be an Oriental country, but it is urged that Great Britain, for a variety of reasons, ought to be the first to recognise any genuine striving after better things in a country that, in spite of war, quarrels, and misunderstandings, has never lost its liking for the British people and its profound respect for British strength and British institutions.

Albania and Her Neighbours.

It is reported from Rome that, as a result of the visit of M. Nintchitch, Yugoslavia's Foreign Minister, an agreement regarding Albania has been reached by Italy and Yugoslavia. The two Powers undertake to refrain from any interference whatever in the internal affairs of Albania, and declare that their joint policy is the development of an independent Albania. This agreement has been reached none too soon, and it is to be hoped that it will be scrupulously honoured in both countries. It coincides with one of the periodical announcements of the Belgrade Press of a revolution in progress across the Serbian frontier. This time, however, the usual contradiction is couched in more serious language. The Albanian Government declares that no revolt has taken place in the country, but that on December 13 bands, considerable in number, composed of Serbian soldiers, of Russian and Bulgarian refugees, and of Albanians recruited on Serbian territory, attacked Albanian frontier posts in the district of Luma, making use of guns, machine-guns, and bombs. The Government, the statement continues, had information that the attack was fixed for December 10, and it was on that precise day that it was announced in Belgrade that a revolution had broken out in Albania. It will be impossible for the Yugoslav Government to ignore this very definite charge, and we can but hope that the agreement reached in Rome by M. Nintchitch implies that Yugoslavia has decided that the policy of fishing in troubled waters is unworthy of its position in the Near East.

Playing with Fire.

As the name of Ahmed Bey Zogu has been associated with the alleged "revolt" in Albania, it is obvious that the ex-Prime Minister of Albania has been behind the movement which, according to the Tirana Government, has culminated in attacks from Serbian territory on the Albanian frontier. Ahmed Bey Zogu has for several months been an honoured guest in Yugoslavia, staying first at a hotel in Belgrade, and subsequently having a residence at a short distance from the capital. If he has been correctly identified with the movement, it is clear that he cannot be allowed to abuse Serbian hospitality in this way, and his continued presence in Yugoslavia becomes inconsistent with the undertaking given by the Yugoslav Foreign Minister to the Italian Government. The

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action imputed to Ahmed Bey corresponds with that imputed to certain ex-Ministers from Bulgaria who have also become political refugees in Serbia, and are accused by the Bulgarian Government of being implicated in incidents on the Bulgarian frontier. Yugoslav interests would seem to be so much better served by having tranquil neighbours that it is difficult to understand why successive Belgrade Governments expose themselves to the charge of being hostile to conditions making for tranquillity beyond their borders. In the case of Albania, there is little likelihood of its proving an easy country to govern. The Ministry of Mgr. Fan Noli may not yet have been able to live up to the high ideals of its official programme; but there was little in the régime of Ahmed Bey Zogu to convince the people of Albania that salvation was to be attained only at his hands. The policy agreed upon in Rome is clearly the right one. The Yugoslav Government can be trusted to adhere to it; if the Belgrade Press is to be equally loyal to its country's pledged word, it will have to lose no time in turning over a new leaf.

Persian Politics.

An amicable adjustment of the strained relations between the Sardar Sepah, Persia's Prime Minister, and the Sheikh of Mohammerah is the best thing that could have happened in the interests of all concerned, including Persia. The Sheikh has earned the warm regard of Great Britain for important services rendered over a course of many years; but it was impossible for the British Government to do more than express to both parties in the dispute the hope that they would be able to settle their differences. There is still in Persia a sufficiently active anti-British section to seize hold of any incident as an excuse for attacking Great Britain, and great play was made of the attitude of the Sheikh of Mohammerah, who was represented as being supplied with British money and armaments for his "war" against the Persian Government. The friendly agreement now reached effectually disposes of the stupid allegation. Memories in Persia are short; otherwise it might be recalled that not many years ago the Persian Government was indebted to Great Britain for a timely intervention which saved Northern Persia from considerable embarrassment. Towards the end of 1918 the Salar ed Dowleh appeared to regard conditions in Azerbaijan as ripe for intervention that would bring him into power in that province, if not in the whole of Persia. His sudden arrest by a British force then in the country nipped the plot in the bud; the Salar ed Dowleh was detained for a period in Baghdad and finally allowed to proceed to Constantinople before returning to Switzerland. He is now reported to be either in Persia or on his way back to that country. It is to be hoped that his return results from the conviction of the Persian authorities that the days of intrigue are over, and that the Salar ed Dowleh will bring his undoubted talents to bear solely on the promotion of the interests of the country as a whole.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

London and Fog.

Two things weighed heavily upon Londoners last week: foreign affairs and fog. And of the two the fog was immeasurably the more ponderable.

It descended last Wednesday upon London—and, indeed, upon other parts of the country which had no Press to tell how bad it was—with devastating completeness. You could not only see it, breathe it, but eat it, and, in later stages, drink it, too. Not at all the real thing, we were assured by those old enough to know of worse; but still, quite good enough for the common rut of unremembering mortals. Old men, and especially old ladies, spoke in a superior manner of *the* cattle-show fog when the cattle on view at the annual show at Smithfield had to be slaughtered because they could not breathe. But the problem must have been simpler then.

For one thing, traffic was so seriously impeded. And that is the Cockney's test of a fog. When the 'buses stop running, as at times and in places they had to, people really began to realise that the General Omnibus Company are not the only ones to suffer. Some sort of ghostly attempt was made to lighten the darkness at nodal points by means of flares, but they were rather like licks of ghoulish flame in some Cimmerian underworld.

Of course, it was not a "pea-souper." There was not enough sulphur about. And one did not hear of anyone's buying an evening paper, lighting it, and by it crossing the road—which is said to be the real test of fog. But it was quite sufficient to set some extraordinary medical men prattling on the virtues of fog.

At first—there is no denying it—it was an adventure It was rather fun to greet some invisible yet familiar face with the absurdly inapposite words, "Good morning"; it varied the monotony of one's daily travelling; above all, it gave unique scope for tempered grousing. But it certainly outlived its jocular qualities.

Foreign Affairs.

Try as he will, the poor Englishman cannot get away from the Continent and from America. He struggles his hardest to put in an administration which should allow him, from the point of view of foreign politics, to go to sleep, that is, to get on with his business, and his reward is—Egypt, evacuation of the Rhineland, debts to U.S.A., Mr. Chamberlain's visit to Rome. It is hard, indeed, yet there is, it seems, no way out of it. Heartily tired of it all, he is supporting the Government to the top of his weary bent, and does not care to have to confess that he can see no solution of any of the first three problems that I have named.

He is pleased with the speech which Mr. Winston Churchill the other day made on the subject of European debts to America, and does not wonder overmuch how it is that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has so quickly changed his mind (his

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tactics?) on this enormous subject. Indignation on the French refusal to pay Britain until she is first paid by Germany is a little moderated by the fact that he cannot quite place these debts into the ordinary commercial category. Yet he is still far from being able to separate the moral from the business aspects of the debts.

The best thing, however, has been done. It has all been postponed until the New Year, so that Christmas can once more be a Christmas of forgetting.

Parliamentary Sparring.

So far there has been but the preliminary jockeying for position in Parliament. Members and parties have been like so many herring-boats waiting outside the harbour, each whistling his hardest and trying to catch the harbour-master's' eye. The Radicals have made a desperate attempt to assert themselves, but have made little impression as yet. Labour has not accustomed itself to its position of comparative insignificance, and the real fights in the House will not come until next year.

The only debate that made at all good reading was the conversation between the Premier and the ex-Premier on the subject of the Campbell case. Mr. Baldwin informed the House that the Government had excised their predecessor's instruction that the Attorney-General should direct no political prosecution without the consent of the Cabinet. This was, of course, a very proper step. The Attorney-General may now use his discretion about consulting the whole Cabinet. There was, incidentally, little hint given that interference by the Cabinet with the Attorney-General's duties has been indulged by all parties.

The Royal Academy.

One does not know whether to ascribe the election by the Royal Academy of Mr. Frank Dicksee to the resurgence of Victorian tradition, or merely to the comfortable taking of the line of least resistance, due to the approach of Christmas and the consequent respect of old age. There is no question that this artist has dignity and the look of a man who would fitly occupy the place so honoured in last century, but there can also be little question that it is the older members of the Academy who have this time prevailed.

There were people, I know, who shivered when they saw in this year's Academy the new President's "This for Remembrance." They felt that the gap between the painter and the thought of his time was of ghostly distance: and now he is P.R.A.!

How far, one wonders, should one century overlap another? Without prejudice to the Victorians, one can begrudge the amount that they have carried forward into our time. It will be 1928 before the Academy has to make up its mind that this is the twentieth century.

Aliens.

The political atmosphere is heavily laden at the moment with talk of restricting the number of aliens in this country. Now when such talk has been based on sentiment, it has been the veriest rubbish—the man who dislikes, say, a Russian Jew merely because he is a Russian Jew, and the man who says, in accordance with the old British traditions of providing a "right of asylum," in effect "Let 'em all come," are equally useless in a discussion of this sort. Neither creeping tales of insidious intrigue nor professions of impossible generosity should move opinion. But there is no doubt that the proportion of aliens to Englishmen has in certain places become very serious. I remember well having my eyes opened to the potential danger of it in France. To a certain Labour Company in 1918 drafts were sent out after the March offensive, and much trouble was experienced with them. They contained many "objectors," people who could hardly speak our language; all one could get out of them, in fact, was "Russia no more fight: I no fight." The harbouring of such men as this is manifestly a great risk, and it is very well that the House of Commons should, as it has just shown itself to be, be alive to the matter.

Raping the Locks.

Of all the subjects being discussed with zest in this festive season, none arouses so much fire as that of the bobbing of women's hair. What domestic entanglements, strife, and triumphs bobbing has caused is known only to that history which is so much more important than the stuff which gets into books. Mere man hardly dares touch the subject now: since women achieved independence, professors' and fools' are the only voices which can lament with impunity the raping of the locks.

An extraordinary gallant and sagacious man, Professor Hooper Roberts, has just had the temerity to point out what everyone out of earshot of women had been whispering: that bobbing is as old as the hills, that it originally was a mark of servitude, and that there are some heads which it does not suit.

Beethoven Quartets.

They were nearly at the end of their herculean task of playing right through the Beethoven string quartets when I went, last Friday, to the Æolian Hall to hear the London String Quartet. It may have been a natural fatigue, or the absurdly thin audience, or the effect of the previous two days' fog, or some perversity in myself, but I could not think that the four players had improved since I heard them a year or two ago. No question that they understand Beethoven, even in his mightiest moments—and he was at his profoundest in the last five quartets—but why should their tone coarsen in the more strenuous passages, and their rhythm have become a little too calculated, almost mechanical? In part, however, they are still most delightful artists; their lesser shades are beautifully determined. One wonders, incidentally, whether in their annual week of Beethoven they need be so severely educational: would it not be wiser to mix up, for the benefit of us unlearned ones, some of the racier, lighter works of the earlier period with those huge broodings of Beethoven's later, grander time?

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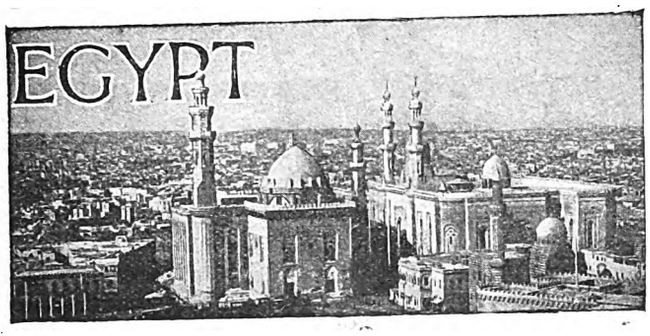
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, December 6.

The Alexandria Customs.

Details will have already reached you of the settlement reached between the Egyptian Government and the Residency which permitted His Majesty's Government to authorise the release of the Alexandria Customs. The settlement has pleased neither the Zaghloulists nor the Opposition, *i.e.*, the Constitutional Liberals and the Watanists. The Zaghloulist disapproval was almost a foregone conclusion. They had declared that they would support any Cabinet that worked in the interests of the country. But it was they who had to interpret exactly what "working in the interests of the country" might mean, and it was generally recognised that when it came to the point they would dispute any settlement, first, because otherwise it would reflect on them, and secondly, because it has become a fundamental principle of their creed not to approve of anything that is done by anybody but a member of the Wafd. As regards the Opposition they are hostile to the settlement, or, rather, they criticise it so as to have an opportunity of attacking the Zaghloulists, on whom they lay the entire responsibility for anything the country may have lost.

As a matter of fact, all reasonable Egyptians recognise that there was no way out of the dilemma into which the country had been driven. Egypt was faced by an ultimatum, and an occupation of the Customs as the first step to enforce acceptance of its conditions. The great point was to prevent any further encroachment on her sovereignty and to secure the release of the Customs, and in the opinion of these Egyptians, who are exceedingly numerous, but, as usual, dare not voice in public what they really think, Egypt, thanks to Ziwar Pasha, has emerged remarkably well from the critical situation in which Zaghloul Pasha had abandoned it. Foreign as well as British opinion cordially approves of the terms of the settlement which re-establish the *status quo* as at February 28, 1922, this time with the formal recognition of the Egyptian Government.

Resignation of Ministers.

The exchange of documents embodying the settlement was followed by the resignation of two of Ziwar Pasha's colleagues, but although the Zaghloulist Press has endeavoured to attribute this to disagreement with the terms, it is an official fact that the settlement was approved unanimously by the Cabinet, and the retirement, which, it may be pointed out, was notified to the Prime Minister only eighteen hours after the exchange of documents, is in all probability due to pressure brought on them by the Wafd. At any rate, Ziwar Pasha found little difficulty in replacing his two colleagues, and one of the new Ministers, Tewfik Rifaat Pasha, may be regarded as an improvement, since, from past experience of his policy, one may expect him to deal very firmly with the student movement, which is one of the unsatisfactory features of the present situation.

Question of the Arrests.

Last week I mentioned that the arrest of six deputies in connection with the investigation into the Stack outrage had raised an outcry amongst the Zaghloulists. The application for their release has now been rejected by the Court on the ground that when Parliament authorised Zaghloul Pasha to give an assurance to the British Government that the inquiry would be pressed with energy for the purpose of bringing the culprits to book, no matter what their position or age might be, it had implicitly waived the question of Parliamentary immunity in the case of any of its members who might be implicated in the matter.

Not content with this decision, the Wafd summoned a meeting of the party, and submitted an appeal signed by 110 members to the King calling upon him to order an immediate reassembly of Parliament to deal with the violation of the Constitution of which the Cabinet had been guilty. This appeal has been referred by His Majesty to his Ministers whose duty it is to advise him on such matters. It is confidently expected that it will be rejected. It is tantamount to disputing the King's prerogative to adjourn Parliament for a month which he exercised a week ago, and there is a strong feeling that pursuant to their past tactics to pick a quarrel with the Throne the Zaghloulists engineered this appeal in order to place the King in a bad light in the eyes of the people. At the moment of writing I am given to understand that Parliament will be dissolved just before the expiration of the month of adjournment.

Sir Geoffrey Archer.

The appointment of Sir Geoffrey Archer as Governor-General of the Sudan has been well received by the British community, because he made such a good impression on them when he attended Mr. Churchill's Middle-East Conference, and by the Egyptians because his appointment by Egyptian

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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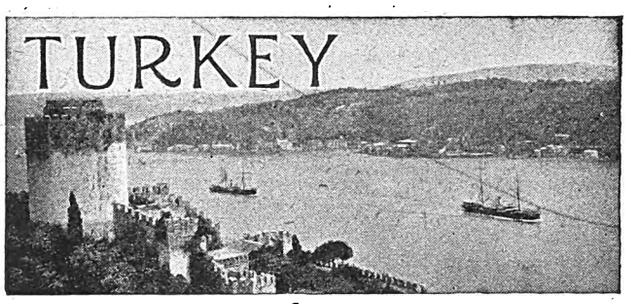
decree indicates that in spite of the changes she has made in the administration of the Sudan Great Britain has no intention of denouncing the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium of 1899.



Constantinople, December 9.

Turkey and Great Britain.

The surprise of Agha Oglou Ahmed Bey at the unexpected reception of his discourse in the Grand National Assembly (after the reading of certain Egyptian Deputies' telegrams regarding recent events) on the conduct of and tyrannical measures adopted by the British authorities in Egypt since the assassination of Sir Lee Stack can only be compared with the satisfaction given by Fethi Bey's just and opportune reprimand and his declaration regarding Turkey's attitude in connection with the Egyptian incident.

It was gratifying to observe that Fethi Bey availed himself of the opportunity presented on this occasion of showing himself a worthy leader of the Government. Up to the time of the new President of the Council's exposition of the Government's proposed policy towards Great Britain the local Press in general had devoted many leading articles of two and three columns to severe criticisms on the "unjust" action of the British, and apparently derived considerable pleasure in suggesting possible remedies which the Egyptians might administer. Turkey was given as an example of a country freed from the hands of such oppressors, and some papers declared themselves unable to understand how Egypt had withstood and suffered the dominating British rule for so long. But after Fethi Bey's statements on December 2 similar articles became conspicuous by their absence.

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The President of the Council's reference to Turkey's desire to preserve and to better her good relations with Great Britain is the first positive mention in this connection which has been made in the Assembly for some time. It appears that Fethi Bey realises that in the interests of Turkey a state of harmony and good will with Western nations is a necessity.

General Brancker's Visit.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker, with Mr. Allan J. Cobham as pilot, arrived here from Bucharest at 3 o'clock on Friday afternoon last. They were met at San Stefano aerodrome by Major Harenc, the British Military Attaché, and Captain Mouhsin Bey. Preparations for their reception had been made by the Turkish authorities, and for three days a military detachment and band waited in vain to welcome the Marshal and his well-known pilot, who were delayed owing to very heavy snows in Roumania. The journey from Bucharest to Constantinople took only three and a-half hours, as compared to forty hours by train. Constantinople, Mr. Cobham tells me, is by way of forming a very important stage in the proposed airship and aeroplane route to India. Their choice of this time of the year, when flying conditions are at their worst, to demonstrate the practicability of such air services, which are believed by many to be dangerous and difficult, but are in reality quite reliable, has up to the present been successful. It was intended to leave Constantinople yesterday for Angora, but the weather at present being too bad, the Marshal left for the capital this morning by train.

Proposed Press Law.

Much is to be said for the enterprise of the Constantinople journalist, especially when the information he seeks has important bearing on his paper's and his personal interest. During the last week there have been much discussion and speculation on the proposed law for the "Suppression of the Liberty of the Press." Ali Said Bey, the Deputy of Kozan, who is responsible for the proposition to modify the present law regarding the Press, has arrived at Constantinople. He can be described as being (at the moment) a very popular member of the Popular Party, and as such he was sought (but in vain) on his arrival at Haidar Pasha for interviews by numerous representatives of the local Press. Unsuccessful but undaunted, these enterprising reporters, anxious to glean enlightenment on this important question which directly interests them, proceeded to search diligently for the popular Deputy, and after some time found him enjoying his midday meal in a restaurant. Ali Said Bey considers it the duty of the Assembly to "put on the good road" the newspapers and journalists who do not respect dignity and honour, and who always wish to describe to those abroad the situation in Turkey as being very weak. The above-mentioned Deputy seemed somewhat surprised at the evident apprehension of the papers and their representatives, and his assurances regarding themselves do not appear to have done much to console the local Press in general, who continue to speculate on the possibilities of being able to continue their work under the probable conditions emanating from the new law.

IRAQ.

Baghdad, December 4.

Political Forebodings.

The political atmosphere appears to be calm but the weather prophets, with a gloomy shake

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of the head, are understood to mutter that a storm is blowing up. The Prime Minister is said no longer to lead his party; as generally happens, his adherents have become too extreme for their leader, who is obliged to follow instead of heading the van. The extremists are so deeply imbued with Nationalism that they cannot help being anti-British. While official relations between the two countries are quite friendly, an insidious under-current of anti-British feeling exists, and shows itself in various petty and despicable ways; for example, an Anglophil official is removed from his post for no apparent reason, a criminal suspected of pro-British sentiments receives a heavier sentence than others convicted of far more serious offences. Meanwhile, with the passage of time Iraq is becoming rather less than more fit for the complete independence for which she clamours.

Elections.

The elections for Iraq's first Parliament have begun, though under the existing clumsy system of indirect representation three or four months must elapse before the deputies can take their seats. Every male Iraqi over twenty is a primary elector, provided that he is a taxpayer, has not been convicted of crime, nor lost his civil rights, and is not a bankrupt or a lunatic. Every 250 primary electors choose one of their number to be a secondary elector; in the hands of these latter rests the election of the deputies, each 20,000 of the male population being represented by one deputy. Minorities are safeguarded by the provision that Parliament must include at least four Christian and four Jewish members.

The Shiahs, whose influence in the past has been sufficient to stultify early attempts at elections, are this time eagerly participating, in the hope of securing representation commensurate with their large numbers. The most active party, however, is the Hizb al Ummah or People's Party, and it is feared that their superior organisation and greater exertions will lead to the election of extremists at the expense of the more moderate candidates favoured by the Government. It is difficult to say whether the tragic or the comic element will prevail if Iraq's first Parliament, fostered by Great Britain and owing its existence to her, is composed almost entirely of deputies holding violently anti-British views.

Northern Frontier.

All the Turkish forces have been withdrawn behind the line fixed upon by the Brussels decision. This corresponds with the true frontier of the Mosul vilayet, leaving to Iraq the Sindi-Guli country, through which ran the Turkish lines of communication, and to Turkey the northern Tiyari district.

Maude Anniversary.

On the anniversary of his death, an impressive ceremony was performed in front of the equestrian statue of General Maude outside the Residency gates. The guard of honour, composed of men from the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, the 6/13th Frontier Force Rifles, and the 1st Battalion Iraq Levies, was inspected by the High Commissioner and the Air Officer Commanding, after which his Excellency placed a large wreath at the foot of the statue. After the sounding of the Last Post by massed buglers, prayers were read by the R.A.F. chaplain, and a lament played by the band of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. During the ceremony a flight of nine aeroplanes flew over in perfect formation. The Royal Salute and National Anthem ended the proceedings.

General News.

The Anglo-Persian Oil Company has undertaken to provide the capital, estimated at £450,000, required by the Iraq Government to enable it to dredge the bar at the mouth of the Shatt al Arab. At the annual meeting of the A.P.O.C., it was stated that the capital and interest will be repaid by the collection of dues, which the Port of Basrah Authority will levy.

A grant of Rs. 25,000 has been sanctioned by the Iraq Council of Ministers for the relief of the destitute Kurds and Assyrians now in Mosul. These unfortunates, whose homes are on the northern frontier, fled into Iraq before the recent Turkish advance.

It is stated that the invitation to take up his residence at Basrah, extended to ex-King Hussein by the Council of Ministers, has been declined by him. Basrah, detesting all matters political as much as Baghdad loves them, has heaved a sigh of relief.

Colonel S. H. Slater, C.M.G., C.I.E., who since 1920 has been Adviser to the Ministry of Finance, has resigned his post and leaves for England next week. The vernacular Press records its deep appreciation of his services to the country, and expresses great regret at his departure.

THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY AND THE SUDAN.

In the secretaries' review of the work of the Church Missionary Society, presented to the general committee of the society on December 9, a tribute was paid to the late Sir Lee Stack, Governor-General of the Sudan, in whom, they stated, "the C.M.S. has lost a warm friend and supporter. He was deeply interested in the society's Sudan mission, and year by year lent the Palace grounds for the mission sale of work, when both he and Lady Stack not only subscribed, but worked personally to make the sale a great success. It was also due to Sir Lee Stack's energetic help that a considerable sum of money was raised for carrying on the work at the Khartoum Girls' School."

The report also announced that the society had been assured by cable of the safety of its workers in Khartoum.

SERBIAN RED CROSS.

Founded in August, 1914, the Serbian Red Cross Society in Great Britain, having completed its objects, has been dissolved after an existence of ten years. The King congratulates the society upon being in a position to make an annual grant of £1,000 in perpetuity to the Central Committee of the Serbian Red Cross, Belgrade, for the continuance of the work started by the branch in Great Britain.

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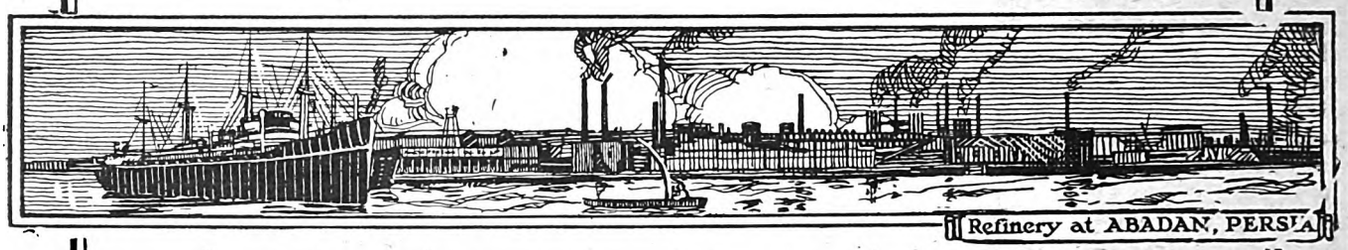

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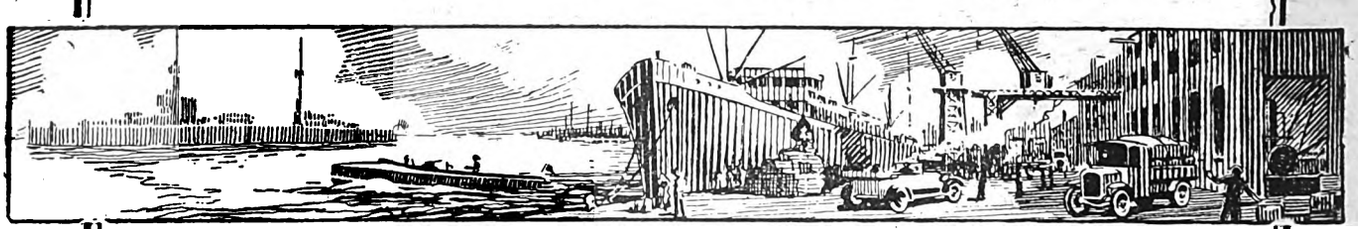

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CIVIL WAR IN PERSIA?

By MIRZA FIROOZ KHAN.

Tabriz, November 23.

Persia's Troubles.

The trials and tribulations of Persia seem never at an end. Hardly had the conflict between the Sardar Sipah's Government and the Eshayeer of Bakhtiaris been smoothed over than the conflict between Riza Khan and the powerful Sheikh Khazal broke out. This quarrel may or may not have "politics" behind it, but there certainly is a personal aspect to the matter. Towards the end of 1922, it will be remembered, the present Shah returned to Persia from Europe. When he was in the south of Persia, this same Sheikh of Arab Eshayeer went to meet his Majesty, and presented to him a hundred choice Arab mares, together with 10,000 Turkish gold lira. Riza Khan, the Sirdar of the Army of the Shah, was ignored by the mighty Sheikh, and there is no doubt that he felt himself thereby slighted. The quarrel has been increasing in intensity from the beginning of this summer, but neither side has given in yet. The Press is forbidden to write on the subject. And now, before this matter has been regulated, trouble has broken out in the North-West between the Persian and the Turkish-Kurd Eshayeer (tribesmen).

The Pitchdari Fighting.

Early in the spring of this year the "Pitchdari," tent-living *ashiret*, passed from Turkish on to Persian soil, for the purpose of grazing their sheep and cattle for the summer. For many years this had been their custom, and was almost regarded as a right. But this year the Persian Government, feeling itself strong enough to resist this violation of the frontier, refused the immigrants permission, except on the following terms:—

1. The Pitchdari to pay the Persian Government one Turkish pound "per head" as a tax.
2. To yield their arms to the Persian Government.
3. To pay to the Government their annual tribute for the past ten years.

To these demands reply was made that the Pitchdari were prepared to pay a tax of one Turkish pound per tent (not per head), that they would never part with their arms, and that they would not pay retrospective tribute.

Then the "war" began. It is stated that the Pitchdari had 15,000 men. The Regular Cossacks were assisted by nearly 2,000 Kurdish cavalry, recruited from all the tribes. Fighting was prolonged until last September. The enemy was, it is affirmed, defeated, leaving the Government troops victorious. I do not know the extent of the Cossack losses, but the Kurds lost 180 men. Afterwards Amir Lashgiar (Persian Commander-in-Chief in the province of Azerbaijan) drove in a motor-car to Souch-Bulak to congratulate the Kurdish chiefs upon their loyalty and victory, and presented them with pistols, revolvers, gold watches, rifles, and so on.

Another Expedition.

And now, with the Kurds' horses scarcely unsaddled, trouble has emerged in another quarter. The Commander-in-Chief has gone to Souch-Bulak and has ordered the Kurdish chiefs to report there within eight hours—with their troops all armed. On his first visit he had told them that everyone should have a rifle—if he were not possessed already of one, he must buy one. Now the Commander expects to have this time a force of over 4,000 fighting men gathered round him. Nearly one-half of the troops stationed in Tabriz have already started for Souch-Bulak, and it is stated that the Cossack forces in Maragha, Mianduab, Salmas, and Urumia have also been ordered to report at Souch-Bulak. Camels, mules, and pack-horses are being commandeered to carry war material, and, as usual, owners of these animals are hiding themselves!

Blaming Great Britain.

In this, as well as in the Pitchdari conflict, the British Government are blamed. Even well-known and highly situated Persians accuse the British of having brought about, for the purpose of a war between America and Persia, the recent murder of Major Imbrie. "So long as the Americans are in our country," I have heard patriotic Persians say, "the English will not give us a peaceful night's rest!" It is commonly stated that Britain employs, at a salary of £1,000 per month, influential Persians in Teheran to act as spies and to cause trouble between Americans and Persians and between different parties of Persians, both in the Mejliss and in the bazaars. Britain is accused, again, of fomenting the war between the Government troops and the Sheikh of Mohammerah. "Sheikh Khazal," it is said, "fights our troops with British money and British war material." Hatred of the English seems, indeed, to have reached boiling point. "The old soldier of the Russian regime," exclaim these Persian patriots, "used to cow us down with his whips and heavy boots, but the British are trying to cut our throats with cotton! The British are foxy, *bad-zot* (of bad stock). *fizool* (one who mischievously causes a quarrel between two men or parties), and *kopak-ogli* (son of a dog!)." They go on: "Not content with Sheikh Khazal, the Pitchdari, and Jelo troubles, the British have now once more urged on Ismail Agha (the notorious Simko) into the war maidan!"

The Campaign Against Simko.

Amir-Lashgiar is now preparing an expedition against Simko, who, it is said, has begun to claim Salmas, Urmi, and Khoi as the blood-price of his brother, Safar Agha, murdered by Mozaffar ed Din, Crown Prince, thirty years ago! He has with him Saiyid Taha and a powerful sheikh named Zola. Four years ago, in his first rebellion, Simko caused the death of about 5,000 Persian Cossacks and gendarmes. The very sound of his name strikes universal fear. For his first as well as for his second rebellion the English are blamed. As an example of this white-hot hatred, the Persian authorities have sent a herald through the bazaars in Saggig, Bokan, Mianduab, Salmas, Urmi, and other places proclaiming to the shopkeepers that anyone who has any British goods in his shop must dispose of them within three months, and if the goods are not sold or destroyed at the expiration of that time, the authorities will confiscate them and publicly burn them! In fact, if the authorities were not afraid of serious consequences, every Englishman, and even the servant and cook of every Englishman, would be taken as a "war-prisoner," stripped naked, tarred over, and burned! But the *bad-zot* Briton is too powerful, and his revenge might know no limits.

Simko's barbarous methods of war have so often made the people of Maragha and Mianduab and of

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the other towns on the Tauris route to fly to Tabriz for safety, leaving behind their homes and cattle, that his present movements are causing very serious perturbation, especially because winter is approaching, and everyone has his winter stores filled. As a precautionary measure, probably very wise, Amir-Lashgiar is sending four of the leading Kurdish chiefs to Tabriz, whence they will be sent, as hostages, to Teheran. These four princes are' Kanj-Ali, Bey of Al-Bulak; Ali-Bey of Haji Ali Kand; Ali Bey of Sardarabad (son of the powerful chief Haji El Khani); and Carani Agha, lord of the troublesome Mamash tribe.

It may be of interest to record how these four men were "imprisoned," for the gracefulness of Persian military skill is shown thereby. Upon the arrival in Souch-Bulak of Amir-Lashgiar these four men had, among others, called upon him to pay their respects. After being entertained with tea and cigarettes for fifteen minutes, they begged permission to leave. Permission was granted by the Amir, but he had ordered—as a matter of special favour—that they should be taken to their quarters in his own motor-car. When once they were seated in the car the Cossack chauffeur turned the head of the car to the Tabriz road. "Why is the car going in this direction?" they asked. "Your streets," replied the smart chauffeur, "are too narrow for us to turn round; we must go by this wider street." Before they knew where they were the party were landed at the gates of the Cossack barracks in Tabriz.

Incidentally, during the first half of the Great War these four lords put into the battlefield a fighting force of 8,000 men, all mounted and armed, at their own expense. This force was led upon Tabriz, as far north as the town of Sofian, by Colonel Shaunemann, who before the War was German Consular Agent in Tabriz, and was both a "rug merchant" and also the "director" of the German "rug factory," built in Shahr-nov (the "new city"), just outside Tabriz. It was constructed in the Moslem style, with imposing minarets, painted green, the religious and national symbol of Persia.

THE SALAR ED DOWLEH.

A correspondent writes to correct a statement made by our Teheran Correspondent in our issue of December 11 to the effect that the Salar ed Dowleh has been living in exile since 1911. He attaches an interesting note in correction of this statement:—

"When the British occupation of Baghdad in March, 1917, finally interrupted the Central Powers' line of communication with Persia and Afghanistan through Kirmanshah, the Turks devoted considerable attention to opening the alternative route through the Caucasus and Persian Azerbaijan. They were assisted by Russia's withdrawal from the conflict, and, in the summer of 1918, succeeded in occupying Baku and in establishing themselves at Tabriz.

"While Turkish troops were advancing to these positions, plans were no doubt being matured for the establishment in Persia of a régime suitable to Turkish aspirations. In Kirmanshah and in Hamadan, and to a lesser extent in Kasvin, the presence of a small force under General Dunsterville was enough to render Turkish intrigues ineffective, while General Malleson, at Meshed, was able to stabilise the situation in Eastern Persia. But a more suitable field for Turkish designs was to be found in the province of Astarabad, where the turbulent Sunni Yomut and Goklan Turcomans had ever despised the authority of Teheran, and were now, as a result of enemy propaganda, looking with especial favour on the Ottoman Turks.

"General Allenby's successes in Palestine forced Turkey to sue for an armistice shortly after the British evacuation of Baku, but subsequent events on the south-east littoral of the Caspian give an idea of what might have occurred had Turkish schemes materialised.

"In the hills to the east of the city of Astarabad there dwelt a notorious brigand, Mehedi Shah, who, during the War, had been associated with the emissaries of the Central Powers. Shortly after the dawn of a day in mid-December, 1918, accompanied by two hundred armed retainers, this chieftain made a descent upon the provincial capital, taking the small garrison of Persian 'Cossacks' completely by surprise, only a few rounds being fired before the Government's troops acknowledged themselves defeated. The Governor-General, Sirdar Muqtadir, fled into the jungle, two days later to appear at Bander-i-Gaz, twenty miles distant, there to be under the protection of a detachment of British troops, which had arrived from Enzeli shortly before his inglorious departure from Astarabad.

"At the same time, it became known that, immediately after Mehedi Shah's victory, the Salar ed Dowleh had arrived at Khoja Nefass, a small Turcoman port ten miles to the south of Gumish Tappeh, where his brother, the ex-Shah Mohammed Ali Mirza, had inaugurated his unsuccessful campaign of 1911. It was reported also that the Salar was busy enrolling a following of Atabai and Jafarbai Yomuts, which had reached not inconsiderable proportions, prior to an advance on Astarabad, twenty-five miles away, where it was expected that he would again proclaim himself Shah.

"There could be no doubt that prompt action would be necessary to prevent Astarabad and the neighbouring provinces from being plunged into disorder, and it was known that the Salar, though probably actuated from motives of self-interest, had been in constant touch with the Turks during the War, and had given at least passive support to the quasi-Turkish régime of Nizam as Saltanah at Kirmanshah.

"A small steam vessel with a party of British soldiers on board anchored unobtrusively off Khoja Nefass as night was falling, and before many minutes had passed, the Salar ed Dowleh, taken by surprise outside the house in which he was lodging, was being hurriedly escorted on board. After a period of internment at Baghdad, he was permitted to reside in Constantinople, whence, after some time, he returned to Switzerland.

"With the disappearance of their leader the members of the lashkar at Khoja Nefass dispersed, and the Persian Government was able to reassume its authority in the town of Astarabad.

"The Salar ed Dowleh possesses considerable energy, and, without doubt, if he had succeeded in reaching his first objective, would have become again a serious embarrassment to the Persian Government. This brief episode, therefore, might be remembered both by the detractors of Britain's attitude towards Persia and by those who decry the value of the North Persian Force"

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

December 18, 1924 (New Style).
December 5, 1924 (Old Style).
Jomada I., 21, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Kislev 21, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Prince Habib Lotfallah arrived recently at the Ritz Hotel, London, from Paris.

Hickmet Bey, Counsellor at the Turkish Embassy, has left London for Angora on leave.

Lord Meston left London last week for Khartoum, and will be out of England until February.

M. Yovanovitch, Yugoslav Consul-General in London, left Belgrade for London to take up his duties.

After an absence of over two months Sir John Cadman returned to London from Persia on December 10.

Sir William Sowden left London last Friday for Port Said in the Peninsular and Oriental steamship Narkunda.

General Sir William Birdwood arrived in London last Friday on relinquishment of the acting Commandership-in-Chief in India.

M. Nicolas Voulovitch, the newly appointed Secretary at the Yugoslav Legation, has arrived in London and entered upon his duties.

Count Léon Ostrorog, late Judicial Adviser to the Ottoman Government, has taken up the course of lectures on Ottoman Law at the University of London.

Sir Kay and Lady (Nadejda) Muir have left their residence in Scotland to spend the hunting season at Whilton Lodge, Northants, Sir Kay Muir's home in England.

Mr. Oswald and Lady Cynthia Mosley left London last week for Marseilles, whence they sailed for India. They will return to London about April, travelling home by way of Iraq, Syria, Palestine, and Egypt.

Aziz Izzet Pasha, the Egyptian Minister, and his wife, with Abdullah Bey Izzet, left London for Zurich, where they will stay for two months. Mohamed Fehmy Hussein Bey, Councillor, is acting as Chargé d'Affaires from December 4.

A lecture on "The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes" (illustrated by lantern slides) was given by Mr. Edgar R. Brown, A.I.P.A., of the Yugoslav Legation, before the Peckham Co-operative Guild on December 9.

Sir Charles Bayley (upon relinquishing his appointment as a Member of the Council of India) and Sir Dadiba Dalal (upon relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for India) had the honour of being received by His Majesty at Buckingham Palace on December 12.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Thomas M. Coffey, Imperial Forest Service, third son of P. M. Coffey, Ballinacree, Knocklong, Co. Limerick, and Isobel Anderson Graham, second daughter of the Rev. J. A. Graham, D.D., C.I.E., Kalimpong, Bengal.

Sir Montagu Butler was received in audience by the King at Buckingham Palace on December 13, and kissed hands upon his appointment as Governor of the Central Provinces, when His Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India.

The marriage arranged between Mr. John Collmann Wharry, elder son of the late Mr. Henry Gordon Wharry, M.R.C.S., and of Mrs. Wharry, of 105, Cadogan Gardens, S.W., and Esmé, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Whittall, of Rosalind House, Moda, Constantinople, will take place on Saturday, December 27, in Constantinople.

Princess Ileana of Roumania honoured the Roumanian Minister with her presence at luncheon last Friday. The guests included Sir Harry and Lady Brittain, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Gaselee, Colonel I. Antonesco, M. Nicolas Misu, and M. D. N. Ciotori. Princess Ileana concluded her visit to England last Saturday and left for Bucharest. Her Royal Highness, accompanied by M. N. Misu and Colonel Ion Antonesco, motored to Dover from London, stopping en route at Canterbury to see the Cathedral.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The India Office announces that the King has approved the following appointments :—

Sir Bhupendranath Mitra, Adviser on Military Finance to the Government of India (at present Acting High Commissioner for India), to be a member of the Executive Council of the Governor-General of India, in succession to Mr. Atul Chandra Chatterjee, who will leave India in the third week in December to take up the post of High Commissioner for India, as already announced.

Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Habib-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Madras, to the vacancy caused by the expiry this month of the tenure of office of Sir Mahomed Shafi as member of the Governor-General's Council.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1924.

SEEKING FOR A SIGN.

We have recorded from time to time the eager efforts of Indian politicians to achieve some semblance of unity and the resulting intensification of the differences which in fact divide them. Their efforts derive increased significance from the fact that, taken together, they represent only a small fraction of the people whose interests are at stake; should they achieve unity, it would not be a united India, but only a coalition of those Indians who have gone actively into politics, and there would remain outside it the masses as a whole, and also the various classes whose wealth, influence, and intelligence would assure them the leadership of the people if they chose to claim it. It is with the attitude of these classes that we are concerned to-day. Regarded as a whole, they have not yet taken politics seriously. They are spectators of the game, not players, but they have heavy stakes depending on the result, and behind their impassive faces it is easy to detect their growing anxiety. Their present attitude is one of nervous expectation. Inexperienced as they are in practical politics, their reading of recent history is that England has no settled purpose, that Parliament will respond readily to pressure, and that old friends will be sacrificed to conciliate new foes. In their eyes it is one of those times, so familiar in the history of their country, when respectable people should sit quietly at home, leave the antagonists to fight it out, and be ready to adhere to the ultimate victor in the contest. To the men of these classes the preamble to the Constitution is already ancient history, buried under a mass of subsequent "gestures" and concessions. In the cabled summaries which make up their news, the considered pronouncements of Prime Ministers scarcely count for more than extracts from irresponsible journals, or interviews granted by pretentious nobodies. England speaks in their ears with various and discordant voices. They are puzzled and perplexed. They are seeking for a sign.

In our opinion it is the duty of the new British Government to give that sign. It is beside the point to argue that it has been given already, and, indeed, one of the real dangers of the situation, in India as elsewhere, arises from the characteristically English habit of accepting settled facts in silence. Among experienced politicians that course works well enough, but the classes we are speaking of have not yet got so far. Politically they are still children, in a stage where iteration is required to produce conviction, and we are not urging the Government to announce a new policy, but to insist on the policy already formulated by Parliament with the assent of the nation and the Empire. Their spokesmen, in England even more than in India, should master their natural dislike of boring experts with the obvious; they must persevere till it has really become obvious to their inexpert audience. If the lesson has not been understood, the remedy is to repeat it in simpler words, to pile precept upon precept and line upon line, to insist in particular on what is least familiar, and to take all possible care that no isolated act, nor casual gesture, can be interpreted as belying, or even modifying, the text of the discourse. We emphasise this last point in particular because of the disastrous effect known to have been produced during recent years by a few actions or phrases of individuals, which have set all India thinking that the kaleidoscope is to be shaken once again. There is some danger of the same thing happening in connection with the report of the Muddiman Committee, to which we referred last week. The authorities at Delhi are under a strong temptation to let the minority down easily, to indulge in phrases or gestures which may excite new hopes or new fears, and so to obscure further a situation which needs only to be clarified. We look to the new Secretary of State to dispel any obscurity that exists or may be so created, and we hope earnestly that he will take the opportunity presented by this report to inaugurate the policy we have urged of steadfast insistence on the settled fact, continued until all India realises that it is indeed settled.

To support precept by example, we will state the settled fact once again, familiar as it must be to our readers. The future of India is no merely Indian question, but one which concerns England, the Empire, and the world. The course of history has given England a mandate, far anterior to any League or Covenant, to enable India to play her proper part among the nations to her own benefit, but also to the benefit of others, and it is England's settled purpose to fulfil that trust. The preamble of the Constitution lays down the lines on which England has determined to proceed. For the first time in history the masses of the people are to be led and helped to control their own destiny through a government responsible to them. Progress in this direction must be gradual, and Parliament alone will determine the time and manner of each advance, the pace depending on the response received from India. All this is settled fact, though no one would suppose so who depended for his information on the published activities of Indian politicians. The dominant factor in the present situation is that the response on which the action of Parliament will depend has been disappointing. Many of the potential leaders have stood aloof and declined to profit by the new opportunities of service. Others have indulged in an orgy of mendicity and mendacity, misrepresenting the facts to ignorant hearers, and pressing for new privileges, while ignoring the tasks which have been assigned to them. In these circumstances the feeling of disappointment, so widespread in this country, should occasion no surprise. An offer has been made, and so far it has not been accepted: that a further offer should now be made is to our mind inconceivable. The existing offer, however, remains open, and in that fact lies the real hope for India. Time has been lost, but not irretrievably, and nearly half the decade of probation still lies ahead. If India now sets to work to make the most of it, the next advance need not be seriously delayed, but to secure that object it would be a mistake to look merely to the political leaders of to-day. The pressure must come from the classes of whom we have written above, from the men of wealth, influence, and intelligence who have stood aloof, and their mobilisation on the side of orderly progress would go far to transform the whole position.

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Near East Bookshelf.

FRANCE AND BRITAIN IN THE NEAR EAST.

"CE QUE J'AI VU EN ORIENT." Par R. Laurent-Vibert. Paris: Les Editions G. Crès et Cie. 7 frs. 50.)

The difficulties experienced in maintaining a workable co-operation between Great Britain and France in the west of Europe since the War have at least been easy to understand; fundamental differences of opinion on a vital question have manifested themselves, and it has been possible for the average Briton to appreciate, if not to agree with, the French point of view. In the Near and Middle East, however, the failure of France and Great Britain to hit upon a common policy has been a source of disappointment to many nationals of both countries. As no Briton is conscious of aiming at any line of policy that can be construed as being prejudicial to French interests, those who have studied Eastern affairs closely during the last six years are left with the uncomfortable feeling that France has deliberately set out to act in opposition to Great Britain in the Near and Middle East. A book, therefore, by a French author which purports to advocate Anglo-French co-operation in the East and to lay down the lines on which such co-operation is possible is worthy of careful and sympathetic attention. What M. Laurent-Vibert has succeeded in doing is to emphasise the radical differences not only of French and British policy, but also of the two points of view. He is a critic, at times to the extent of fierceness, of French policy, and if anywhere he can bring himself to approve of what Great Britain has done it is only because her conduct in that particular respect seems to fit in with the cynical materialism on which he would base the future Anglo-French co-operation in the East. Now, no country can be expected to carry very far officially altruism in international affairs, and there is no need to waste time in combating the prevalent idea that Great Britain has raised perfidy to a fine art, and, having elaborated the most selfish policy conceivable in any given direction, relentlessly pursues it to the pre-determined end. To carry conviction on these points, it might be necessary to reveal what a happy-go-lucky feckless attitude successive British Governments actually adopt towards foreign affairs, and the consistent way in which the mistakes of rivals and enemies give shape to what subsequently becomes known as British policy. But, if in the sphere of international relations the British line of action lacks directness or vision, we can at least claim that its application is hardly ever wanting in fairness, impartiality, and even generosity.

M. Laurent-Vibert subjects Eastern affairs—in his comprehensive survey of Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, and Turkey—to a shrewd analysis, which is unrelieved by a single generous thought, much less by the recommendation of a generous action or gesture. He stands for the apotheosis of French materialism. Being convinced that the British have it in them to attain ruthlessly their goal in the East, and being a thoroughgoing worshipper of success of that kind, he wants France to fit in her policy with Britain's, so that together they may divide the plums, as they present themselves to his imagination, which otherwise must go to Britain alone. Any other policy must leave Britain France's rival or enemy, and a successful one at that. Grievances are to hand at every turn, and, as though to modify his appreciation of British success, our author loses no opportunity of pandering to anti-British feeling. French prestige, it seems, is a plant of very delicate growth. Even poor Tutankhamen, if he had had an adequate realisation of things as they ought to be, would not have allowed himself to be discovered by an Englishman. There are in the book gratuitous insults of Great Britain's work in Palestine; our author does not himself believe that we have made a compact with the Turks that they should help themselves to French territory as compensation for Mosul, but he thinks it necessary to record the possibility of such a thing, perhaps because he remembers French treatment of the Armenians. Because Great Britain did not adopt an attitude in regard to the Ottoman Public Debt which France herself, with her special interests, did not adopt, it was, of course, with the deliberate intention of destroying a French organism in order to replace it with a British organism! And so on.

M. Laurent-Vibert is an ardent Royalist, and perhaps the non-realisation of his political leanings in France have left him too disgruntled to be an impartial or fair-minded observer of Eastern affairs. Monarchical France raised French prestige to great heights in the East; the Republic has basely abandoned its glorious heritage. Churches, schools, and hospitals—the great landmarks of French civilisation—were not apparently the outcome of religious zeal, but were merely the conscious agents of French imperialistic designs. They were founded—from our author's point of view—for the sole benefit of France, and not with any idea of serving the interests of Eastern peoples. And what is it that France is supposed to have lost? A privileged position, consular pre-eminence, the protectorate over the Latins, the rôle of arbiter between Christian communities. Never a word for the peoples under her charge. The list is too trivial for the consideration of serious people in these post-War days. Our author is forced to admit in the course of his argument that France was able to save herself in the recent War only by the help of Europe; he not only ignores the fact that Turkey was conquered single-handed by Great Britain, apart from Arab assistance, but he also conveniently overlooks the fact that the least that France can do in return for the help that Europe gave her is to make some sacrifices somewhere with a little grace. He attempts to explain away the attitude of Great Britain towards Egypt by saying that the British concern themselves only with the security of the Canal and are indifferent to what happens to Egypt itself. A less prejudiced view would recognise that Great Britain does recognise the rights of nations to be independent; she may not always see eye to eye with the nations in question as to the precise moment when they should be regarded as ready for independence, but she does consciously do her best to educate them for self-government, and she has none of the selfish aims which, according to our author, have been the sole *raison d'être* of French activities in the East. It is not true, as M. Laurent-Vibert declares, that Britain has done nothing "pour le progrès moral et civique des Palestinien dont elle se moque profondément." Even if it were, the assertion would come ill from one who in one and the same chapter can write: "Nous sommes en Syrie depuis 1919; nous y avons dépensé des milliards . . . fait un énorme effort d'organisation et d'ordre," and "De fait, on ne voit nulle part le résultat de l'occupation française. . . . Beyrouth a des rues invraisemblables de malpropreté . . . pas de bonne police urbaine . . . en somme, Beyrouth est restée entièrement une

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ville turque . . . en un mot, on a fait de la politique, on a ni gouverné, ni administré."

British and French interests in the Near East may be, as M. Laurent-Vibert asserts, identical; but his interpretation of those interests will never commend itself to British readers. The mandates have been accepted, and both nations are morally bound to make the best of the situation. If France elects to be false to her pledges, that is her affair; she need not expect to find Great Britain an accomplice in her foolish designs any more than the latter is called upon to endorse our author's prejudiced view of the situation in Palestine and in Iraq.

"THE INDIAN WARS."

A HISTORY OF THE INDIAN WARS. By Clement Downing. Edited by W. Foster. (Oxford University Press, Humphrey Milford. 7s. 6d. net.)

Downing deserved a place in this excellent series of reprints of scarce books dealing with Indian history. His title is in these days rather misleading, his principal topics being the pirates of the Arabian Sea and his experiences as a gunner in the Mogul Army. He has a good story to tell, and tells it rather baldly. Mr. Foster's editorial work is, as usual, admirable. In a short introduction and concise, but adequate, footnotes, he settles once for all Downing's claims to a place as a source of history. Speaking generally, it is dangerous to trust any assertion of fact, for Downing was horribly inaccurate in details, besides being addicted to blowing his own trumpet in season and out; but, details apart, he gives us a good general idea of matters not otherwise to be easily learned, of pirate life in Madagascar, of a Mogul campaign against the Marathas, or of the inefficiency of the English organisation on the west coast of India. He played cricket, too, while his boat was at anchor in the Gulf of Cambay about the year 1721, and had a good gallery of predatory Kolis.

THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS.

"TWICE FIFTY YEARS OF EUROPE." By Percy Ashley. (London: Collins and Co. 15s. net.)

This book is a passionless sketch of the political development of Europe from 1815 to 1914. It is in the main a record of facts. The author does not colour his narrative with personal opinions, nor does he appear to be prompted either to seek any new interpretation or to question the accuracy of the usual text-book explanation. His account of the reaction of the Eastern Question upon Europe gives us nothing new, and the whole book, indeed, is intended for the general reader, who may or may not be stimulated by this story to further research. It is not unfair to say, however, that unless such research is undertaken, the reader will be rather a knowledgeable than a wise man.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Baghdad During the Abbasid Caliphate," from Contemporary Arabic and Persian Sources. By G. Le Strange. With Eight Plans. (London: Humphrey Milford. 16s. net. New Impression.)

"Goha the Fool." By Albert Adès and Albert Josipovici. (London: Grant Richards, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Therefore": An Impression of Sorabji Kharsedji Langrana and his Wife Franscina. (London: Humphrey Milford. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Occident and the Orient." By Sir Valentine Chirol. Lectures on the Harris Foundation, 1924. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 2 dollars. Postage extra.)

"The Campaign in Mesopotamia, 1914-1918." Vol. II. Compiled by Brig.-Gen. F. J. Moberley, C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O. (London. H.M. Stationery Office. £1 1s.)

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THE INDIA SOCIETY.

By permission of the Secretary of State for India in Council the members of the India Society paid a visit to the India Office Library on December 11 to view the Indian drawings.

At a short meeting held on the same afternoon Sir Francis Younghusband described to the Secretary of State the past work of the society, emphasising its non-political character. He recalled that, in their work of spreading knowledge of the art and culture of India, the Committee had received much encouragement from their French colleagues, L'Association Française des Amis de l'Orient, who had extended privileges of membership and supplied lecturers. In return the India Society had been able to send lecturers to Paris in order to make known there what was being done in India for art. Further, the French Ambassador had presided at an India Society meeting here, and had been very appreciative.

In his reply, the Secretary of State said that it was a source of great satisfaction to him to find himself in the company of those who were attempting to make known the fame and to extend the reputation of great artists who had lived in India from remote times. The field which the India Society studied was one of the richest in the world, and its story went back to immemorial centuries. Amid the clash of dynasties the artistic expression of India had been maintained with a richness and variety which hardly any other country in the world could equal.

Amongst those present were :—Earl Winterton, Sir Arthur Hirtzel, Sir Thomas Arnold, Mr. William Foster, Dr. Thomas, Prof. Rothenstein, Mr. Laurence Binyon, Lady Scott, Dewan Bahadur Vijayarghavacharya, Mr. L. Heath, Mr. R. N. Tagore, Mr. A. Yusuf Ali, Mr. F. H. Brown, Mr. De la Valette, Mr. Mukhul Dey, Mr. E. B. Havell, Mr. H. V. Lanchester, and Mr. F. J. P. Richter (Hon. Secretary).

THE GREEK REFUGEE LOAN.

In view of the success of the Greek Refugee Loan, the British relief societies working among the refugees in Greece wish to point out that the Protocol of the loan definitely establishes that no part can be used for charitable assistance, but that it can be applied to productive settlement only. The assistance by charitable means of refugees who cannot immediately be placed in productive work is an essential complement to the scheme of reconstruction for which the loan was issued. That the need for such assistance is grave and urgent is borne out by recent news from Greece stating that conditions in many cases are approximating to the appalling distress which occurred during the Russian famine of 1921.

Donations for the work of relief should be sent to Sir Maurice Bonham Carter, K.C.B., the All-British Appeal, 26, Gordon Street, London, W.C.1. Gifts of old clothing and material, with the name and address of the donor, should be sent to the All-British Appeal, New Hibernia Wharf, London Bridge, S.E.1.

Sir Harcourt Butler, Governor of Burma, addressing the first Durbar held since his appointment, said that recent measures had resulted in checking the non-payment of the capitation tax, of which the collection was now almost normal.

The Indian Railway Board has decided to investigate the organisation of the medical services of the North-Western Railway, for which purpose Colonel Needham, Deputy Director-General of the Indian Medical Service, is being lent to the Board when he vacates his present appointment at the end of this month.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

GREAT BRITAIN AND EGYPT.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—With reference to the letter of Coles Pasha in your issue of December 4, I would like to endorse his remarks on that effectual remedy whipping, and ask why is not a similar method of firmness applicable to other situations? The murder of the Sirdar is only the old, old story of imbecilic toleration, which seems to have become a fetish with us.

Gordon was sacrificed because we decided to take a firm hand and do the whipping only when it was too late—and now it seems the very college which perpetuates his name and memory is being used to propagate the pernicious doctrines which are causing the trouble to-day in Egypt and the Sudan.

Again, it has taken the murder of a host of British officials, culminating in the death of the Sirdar, to induce us to do anything or to give a thought to whipping, although the very air has been full for months of the crying necessity for it. But no; toleration up to murder point is our stupid policy.

Yet, after all, what can one expect? When a brave and gallant general in India, who tried to do his duty to his country and protect his countrymen and women and other Europeans from a fanatical mob, believed in doing the whipping first, and not after, the atrocities, what is the result? Punished and penalised by the authorities above him, and it has to take a civil action at home to vindicate his action and honour! Is there any wonder at men on the spot—and they are the men who know—being afraid to act?

Our toleration has made British prestige almost a byword in the Near East, and all because of the ridiculous blanc-mange and jelly-like policies with which some of our supermen at home think they can manage Eastern affairs. No wonder Roosevelt said : "Either rule Egypt or get out." If there is such a thing as life after death, the great American will assuredly have said : "I told you so."—I am, etc.,

J. H. CRESSWELL.

Dewsbury, December 8.

LEEDS TO QUETTA BY CAR.

Major Forbes Leith, who, with two companions, set out on a motor journey from Leeds to Quetta, has returned to England after having accomplished a journey of 8,527 miles. Major Forbes Leith, who is fit and well, travelled 2,850 miles in country with no roads and 1,550 miles through desert. He said his car worked splendidly throughout the trip of ninety-six days. The fuel consumption worked out at about 18 miles per gallon.

The Viceroy and Lady Reading arrived in Calcutta on December 9, on a three weeks' visit.

General Weygand, the retiring French High Commissioner for Syria, has been promoted to the dignity of Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour.

Wireless messages will henceforth be accepted by the Eastern Telegraph Company addressed to passengers travelling in ships on the sea routes to and from Egypt, Aden, India, Ceylon, the Far East, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, South America. Telegrams for various parts of the British Empire containing Christmas greetings only will be transmitted by the company at special rates.

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OBITUARY.

The death occurred on December 10 in a nursing home of Dr. Ernest Schuster, K.C., LL.D., in his seventy-fifth year, father of Colonel G. E. Schuster, C.B.E., M.C., Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government.

Mrs. Watts, widow of Colonel J. B. Watts, of the Indian Army, and daughter of the late General E. S. Jackson, of York House, Bideford, Devon, died suddenly at sea while on her way home from India last week.

Colonel Frederick White, D.S.O., late R.M.L.I., died at Blackheath on December 8 at the age of sixty-three. He served in the Egyptian campaign of 1882, being present at the bombardment of Alexandria, and in the operations in the Eastern Sudan in 1884, being present at the actions of El Teb and Tamai and the relief of Tokar.

The death is announced of Lieutenant G. H. Tapp, of the South Waziristan Scouts, as the result of an engagement with Mahsud raiders. News from Peshawar states that Lieutenant Tapp's death was the result of a treacherous attack by a gang of Mahsuds on a squad of recruits of the South Waziristan Scouts, who were engaged in field exercises under Mr. Tapp.

One of the few surviving officers who fought in the Indian Mutiny campaign has passed away in the person of Colonel Herbert Augustus Tierney Nepean, late Indian Army, who died last week at his residence at Worthing, at the age of eighty-five. The son of the late Canon Nepean, of Westminster, he obtained a cadetship in the Indian Army, and went out when barely seventeen. He saw active service also in the Burmese War of 1885-6.

Lieut.-Colonel Reginald Ffoulkes Cottrell, R.A., D.S.O., who died suddenly after an operation, served in the Royal Artillery for six years (1903-9), and rejoined immediately on the outbreak of war. In Macedonia he commanded a field battery of the 26th Division in the action familiarly known as the "Petit Couronne Stunt," as a result of which he was awarded the D.S.O. Later, as Commandant of the Army Artillery School, he not only organised an efficient scheme of training in gunnery, but was responsible for the training of the Greek heavy artillery, and so did important work in preparation for the action which, in 1918, broke down the Bulgarian defences. In that action he was commanding the 99th Brigade, R.F.A.

Sir Robert Horne, M.P., arrived in Bombay last Saturday. He left immediately for Calcutta en route for Rangoon.

In response to a request from the Turkish Government, the Polish Government will undertake the protection of Turkish citizens in Yugoslavia.

The Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1924, under which fifty-six persons suspected of complicity in terrorist conspiracy were recently arrested in Bengal, has been published as a White Paper (Cmd. 2,288. Price 6d.)

The Egyptian Government has renewed the appointment of Sir Maurice Amos as Judicial Adviser for six months, as from November 27. Sir Maurice had wished to retire immediately, but in view of the present circumstances has agreed to stay on for another six months, which explains the unusually short period of the renewal of his appointment.

The *London Gazette* states that the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire to the undermentioned: For gallantry—Sol Ibrahim Negib, Khartoum Police Force; Shawish Jak Taha, Khartoum Police Force, Nafar Mohammed Abdulla Mohammed, Khartoum Police Force.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

M. Venizelos and Mme. Venizelos last week arrived at Leysin, Switzerland.

Mr. Leslie Lord, Deputy Director of Agriculture at Mandalay, Burma, has been offered and has accepted a post on the staff of the School of Rural Economy, Oxford University.

M. Ninchitch, Yugoslav Minister for Foreign Affairs, arrived in Rome on December 10 and conferred with Signor Mussolini, the Prime Minister, on various questions affecting Italy and Yugoslavia.

The Iraq Council of Ministers has decided to register the land occupied by permanent British cemeteries at Baghdad, Amara, Kut, and Barra respectively as the property of the Imperial War Graves Commission.

According to the *Morning Post* Calcutta correspondent, a train carrying Tata's workpeople, near Chichwad, was attacked recently by armed men. Eleven passengers were wounded, seven of whom had to be taken to hospital.

Jevad Bey, the Turkish Minister at Bucharest, has been appointed Turkish Ambassador in Paris. M. Constantin Diamandy, the former Roumanian Minister at Petrograd and delegate at the Lausanne Conference, has been appointed Roumanian Minister in Paris.

The Times Delhi correspondent reports that Lieut.-General Sir John Shea, while taking riding exercise on December 9, met with an accident. His horse shied owing to the sudden appearance of a stray dog, and Sir John was thrown, breaking his nose. He is progressing satisfactorily.

One thousand persons have been rendered homeless as the result of a disastrous fire which occurred last week in the congested area of Ashar, Basra, which is situated near the dockyard and inhabited mostly by the poorer classes. A strong wind was blowing, and the fire brigade restricted their efforts to the prevention of the destruction of the whole town.

On the motion of Mr. A. W. Pickard-Cambridge, Fellow of Balliol, the Craven Committee has been authorised to make two grants of £50, one towards the expenses of publication of a work by Mr. Stanley Casson, M.A. (New College), on Thrace, Macedonia, and Illyria; the other towards the expenses of the excavations at Sparta undertaken by the British School at Athens.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Tuesday Morning.

State-owned Ships.

At the meeting of the P. and O. Company Lord Inchcape, in an illuminating review of the general shipping position, dealt with competition by State-owned ships, and pointed out that while during the War the British Government built a great many ships, very wisely, as soon as the War was over, they got rid of them. Other Governments have not been so wise, and have held on to their State-owned steamers, and these have been competing with privately owned vessels, with the result that the countries concerned have lost millions of pounds, which have had to be made good by the taxpayer. Some of the Governments, Lord Inchcape pointed out, are now attempting to dispose of their vessels, but the vessels, if sold, would not realise one-fourth of their cost. Lord Inchcape added that it was not within the capacity of public servants or Government departments to manage such great enterprises as shipping. Businesses such as that were built up by men who had been trained for and had devoted themselves to commerce. It would, Lord Inchcape believed, have paid the ship-owning Governments to have sunk their ships rather than to have kept them running during the last four years. When Governments had rid themselves of the incubus of State-owned vessels, he thought that the public might see a moderate return to prosperity in the shipping industry. Meantime the shipbuilding yards of this country would have many empty berths, with resulting lack of employment; but shipowners would not go on building ships unless they could expect a reasonable margin of profit. Governments would be better off if, instead of competing with private enterprise, they took a share of business profits in the form of income-tax. If they continued to run ships they would fail commercially, and, to make good their losses, would have recourse to additional taxation.

The Outlook.

Lord Inchcape went on to deal with shipbuilding costs, and pointed out that they are still from 60 to 70 per cent. above the pre-war level, mainly through high wages and low output in the shipbuilding and contributing trades. He quoted figures taken from British and foreign tenders for railway material to illustrate the difficulties British manufacturers have as against Continental manufacturers in competing for orders for their factories. Continental prices, he believed, however, were rising, as Continental firms found that they were working at a serious loss. It was not always understood by the public, he continued, what effect even a slight advance of wages might have on the community unless accompanied by a corresponding increase of output. We had to depend on other countries for the bulk of the necessaries of life, and we could not pay for these unless we could market our exports. To do this we had to meet, in our prices, the competition of other countries. Only by persistent hard work, and the rigid keeping down of expenses, he added, should we get our share of the world's trade, and be enabled to support our population.

Greek Loan Allotments.

Yesterday dealings began on the Stock Exchange in the Greek Refugee Seven per Cent. Loan, and as a result of the surplus of buying orders the price had reached 7¼ premium at the close, which must have left the "stags" in good heart. For the issue of £7,500,000 the applications received in time totalled £170,000,000, while subscriptions for almost a third of that amount were received subsequently. In view of these figures, it was obvious that applicants for the bonds would only receive a fraction of the amount they had subscribed for. Actually applications for amounts under £2,000 have been ruled out, those for between £2,000 and £3,000 have been allotted £100, those between £3,000 and £10,000 have received 4 per cent., and applicants for larger sums have received 3½ per cent.

Fate of the Small Investor.

In other words, the small investor has been completely ignored in the allotments, and is faced with the necessity, if he still desires to participate in the loan, of purchasing the bonds at a heavy premium. No one would, of course, question the fact that applicants for amounts under £2,000 included a large number of would-be "stags," but the proportion is unlikely to be any larger than in the case of the applications for greater amounts. There is the point to be considered that the division of a loan among a very large number of small investors means greatly increased work in the future, but that aspect is, after all, a minor consideration; and it is a recognised principle that the more widely spread the holdings the steadier the market, whereas, if the holdings are large there is always the possibility that the market may be unduly affected by realisations.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

BULGARIA.

Sofia, December 3.

Pernik Coal-Mine

Last week the Sobranye began to discuss whether a certain measure of autonomy should be granted to the State coal-mine of Pernik. Up to the present the mines, the railways, and, in fact, practically all the natural and artificial resources of the country have been more or less State-owned. Now there is a strong movement afoot to accord a fairly large measure of autonomy first to the mines and then the railways. It is argued that many of the evils arising out of bureaucracy will be got rid of and that the country will gain in the long run. At present the discussion is in its initial stages, and there does not seem to be any great opposition to the proposed measure.

Proposed Economic Reforms.

On the initiative of the Prime Minister, M. Tsankoff, a Conference of the Ministers of Finance and Agriculture, the Governor of the National Bank, and two Deputies was held this week to consider what reforms tending towards national economy could be made. The following are among the principal decisions taken :—

(1) A vast irrigation scheme is to be carried out in South-Eastern Bulgaria. Foreign capitalists will be invited to participate in this work.

(2) Three forest concessions will be given to private groups, whilst the construction of new railway lines on a modest scale, in collaboration with a specially arranged loan from the National Bank, will be proceeded with.

(3) Attempts will be made to industrialise the agricultural life of the country.

(4) Efforts will be made to raise the standard of technical schools.

The above are all important matters, and if the Government is able to carry them through, much good should result to the country.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, December 2.

The Budget.

The last month of the year will be devoted by Parliament to the Budget, the discussions on which will have to be finished before the Christmas vacation in order that it may have effect as from January 1. The debates will, therefore, not concern themselves with details, but will be confined to general principles as laid down by M. Vintila Bratianu last Sunday at the Ministry of Finance to the assembled representatives of the Bucharest Press.

The lively interest which usually attends the presentation of the Budget in Roumania has been even more than usually marked this year, coming as it does at a time of economic crisis, when the commerce and industry of the country are confronted with the gravest difficulties. In a country like Roumania the State must foster more than in other countries the development of growing industries and take special care to apply the necessary remedies to conditions which, if continued, may bring about their fall.

The Budget of 1925 is the fourth Budget presented by M. Vintila Bratianu. The first three, says the Minister, aimed at establishing the financial position of Roumania abroad—that is to say, the payment of foreign debts. These debts being to-day in part paid off and in part consolidated, the Minister of Finance is able to turn his attention to other matters, viz. :—The arrangement of internal debts, and this is the aim of the present Budget.

The Budget total is 31,750,000,000 lei, as against 24 milliard lei in 1924. The first Budget of M. Vintila Bratianu, that of 1922, totalled 10 milliards, and was, according to the statement of the Minister, a trial Budget to prove the possibilities of the State. The second, that of 1923, was for 15 milliards for nine months (*i.e.*, about 20 milliards for the year).

The Budget for 1925 shows an increase of 20 per cent. on that of the preceding year. The revenues are estimated at 31,750,000,000, and the expenditure at 28,540,000,000 approx. To this must be added about 159,541,000 lei for extraordinary credits, 250,000,000 for payment of war damages, and finally 2,000,000,000 for the increase of salaries to public officials and pensioners.

It is interesting to note that in the increase of 7,500,000,000 in the expenditure, as compared with 1924, there is included 1,500,000,000 for proposed improvements to the State railways. The Ministry of Communications has obtained the most important increase, an increase amounting to over 3 milliard lei.

M. Vintila Bratianu believes that he may reasonably hope for a considerable surplus from the Budget, taking into consideration the very real improvement which has taken place in different aspects of Roumania's economic situation. The revenues from export taxes and from the tax on business turnover have not fallen, nor will they fall in the future, according to the predictions of the Minister. He estimates that the Customs import taxes will bring in 1,500,000,000 lei, and that the revenues from export taxes will amount to 5 milliard lei.

It must be admitted that the majority of the Press is sceptical as regards this outlook, which, in view of the unfavourable condition of business in Roumania at the present time and of the financial crisis which is restricting trade, appears to be too optimistic.

The Opposition newspapers affect to see in the Budget a new sign of the approaching fall of the Liberals. According to these papers it is an inflated Budget without any solid basis, which is to be passed on by the Liberals to the party which succeeds them.

As already stated in these letters, in Roumania, where the Government does not appear to rest upon any real majority or on the freely expressed will of the people, the tenure of office depends entirely on the Royal decision.

It would appear that any other Administration situated as the Liberal Government is would certainly have fallen ten times over. The Opposition, however, is non-existent. If two of the parties were to succeed in drawing up a combined programme along general lines, the knell of the Liberals would have tolled.

Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., are advised that the production of the Steaua Romana Co., of Bucharest, during November was 24,370 tons.

After a heated debate in the Punjab Legislative Council on November 24, the Rural Bloc defeated the Government by recommending a repeal of the notification raising the irrigation water rates.

The National Assembly in Greece has voted the Bill for settlement by foreign arbitration of the dispute between the British Lake Copais Company on the one side and private individuals and the Government on the other.

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AN IMPORTANT WATERWAY IN YUGOSLAVIA.

(Concluded.)

(BY OUR ZAGREB CORRESPONDENT.)

The canal was worked satisfactorily until the outbreak of the Great War, when it ceased to be available for general commercial purposes. At the time of the Paris Peace Conference the canal territory and adjoining region formed the subject of much discussion and negotiation. The larger part of the canal passes through the Serbian Vojvodina, then a part of South Hungary, and peopled largely by Serbs, descendants of Serbian immigrants who had been encouraged by the Emperors to settle there in the age of Turkish invasions; so this province was united on national grounds with the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. By the Treaty of Trianon the Hungaro-Yugoslav frontier was drawn across the feeder canal at a point a little north of Bezdan, leaving by far the largest part of the system to Yugoslavia, but cutting it off from the headworks at Baja and necessitating subsequent special conventions between the two States concerned.

At the conclusion of peace the canal was first placed under sequester; but the Serb-Croat-Slovene Government soon permitted the existing board of directors to form an administrative board to which were attached two delegates of the S.C.S. Government. At the same time the native name of the main canal was changed to King Peter I. Canal, and the irrigation canal was renamed after Prince (now King) Alexander. The headquarters of the company were transferred from Budapest to Yugoslavia. The arrangement for Government control was merely a temporary measure.

By this time the British bondholders had become anxious to have their interests guaranteed afresh under the new régime, and so—in June, 1922—they dispatched Mr. J. J. Manning, a British engineer, to take charge of the practical working of the canal and the various enterprises worked by the company, and the task of reorganisation and adjustment to post-war conditions was energetically taken in hand. A new company was formed under the name of A. D. Kanala Kralja Petra I. The headquarters of the company were definitely established in Belgrade, and only the technical direction remains in Sombor for the more direct practical administration of the canal. One of the problems which the new company has to face is that the introduction of fresh capital is very necessary, but this will scarcely be forthcoming unless an extension of the concession is granted, and the shareholders and bondholders are thereby given reasonable prospect of an adequate return for their investment. The continuance of the administration of the canal in the hands of a private company would also tend to neutralise much of the inconvenience caused by the fact that the canal system now lies on two sides of a frontier. As it is, there are at the present moment quite a number of outstanding questions touching the canal to be settled by the Yugoslav and Hungarian Governments before the canal can be run as profitably as it might be. In time of flood, life and property over a vast area of valuable wheat country depend upon timely precautions being taken at Baja. In time of drought the shipping facilities over the whole of the canal system are equally dependent upon the provident regulation of the water supply at the same point. Yet at the time of writing direct telephone communication between the technical direction of the canal at Sombor and the works at the canal head at Baja have not yet been re-established, despite its extreme importance. The Statutes of the original company have been revised to suit the new order of things, and at the head of the present company stand an administrative board and a supervisory board, the former consisting of ten members, four of whom are nominated by the S.C.S. Government, and the latter of four members, two of whom are nominated by the same Government. In the interests of the canal company it would be well if one Hungarian member were admitted to each of these boards, to represent the Hungarian interest in the canal, and also to see to it that the decisions of the administrative board are duly applied in the Hungarian section of the canal.

One of the chief sources of revenue for the canal in pre-war times was the shipping which made use of that route. Under the new order, the main canal is a Yugoslav national water, and foreign craft are not allowed to enter it. As a result, the canal traffic has greatly declined, with a consequent diminution of the canal's receipts. For, though technically a national water, exclusively within Yugoslav and—by a small but very important section—Hungarian territory, the canal is of international significance and value, and could be profitably used by the shipping of several States, to the advantage of the canal and the surrounding country, and the States through which it passes.

A further handicap has been the sequestration of some of the canal lands under the Agrarian Reform Law. The breaking up of various large estates along the canal banks under the same law has also adversely affected the canal traffic, and especially the grain trade, since it is obviously more difficult to deal with a large number of smallholders than with a few great landed proprietors. This last difficulty could, however, be met by the provision of a special warehouse in Sombor, where goods might be collected and stored for shipping. A grain elevator, too, is urgently needed, and would well repay the cost of erection, as it would attract the grain trade back to the canal, which has latterly been abandoned in favour of the more expensive but at present more convenient railway.

All things considered, it may safely be said that the difficulties with which the canal company has to contend are not insurmountable, and no more than the natural outcome of transformed conditions in Central Europe of a new order which is, gradually but surely, being regulated and made workable. Since the reorganisation of the company the canal receipts, which had gone down to nothing, have improved greatly. The traffic has increased. Canal tariffs and the rents of the canal property have been revised and made to accord with the present-day rate of exchange. The administrative board includes men of ability and experience such as Mr. J. Hanau, whose intimate knowledge of Yugoslav affairs is most valuable, and Mr. J. J. Manning, the company's technical director.

There is no doubt that if the canal is permitted to be run on businesslike commercial lines it will before long once more prove its enormous economic value to the surrounding country, to the Yugoslav State as a whole, and, indeed, to all countries which have for generations past looked to that remote region for some of the finest wheat flour in the world.

The Department of Overseas Trade expects to resume the series of British Industries Fairs in London in 1926.

The attention of holders of Bulgarian Treasury bonds is drawn to the fact that the 1,000 levas Treasury bonds will be definitely withdrawn from circulation on January 31, 1925. Until that date they may be exchanged for bank notes at the Bulgarian National Bank.

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Company Meeting.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The Shipping Position.

Lord Inchcape's Speech.

Viscount Inchcape, the company's Chairman, presided on December 10 at the 84th annual general meeting of the P. and O. Steam Navigation Company.

The report and accounts having been taken as read,

His lordship said that after setting aside £249,150 for retlemption of the 5 per cent. and 5½ per cent. debentures and writing off the discount and cost (£139,711 5s. 6d.) of the 5 per cent. debenture issue, they were able to recommend the same dividend as last year and to carry forward £101,033 13s. 8d. These results were not derived from working profits but from the company's investments and other sources, such as dividends from their allied lines.

The insurance fund, which had suffered heavy losses, had increased by only £18,081, and several claims were still outstanding against the year's premiums. Since the fund was started seven years ago their premium had exceeded claims by £1,918,961 10s. 2d. With 427 ships at sea covered by the fund they could not expect to run free of accident every year.

Competition by State-Owned Ships.

Twelve months ago he had said that with few exceptions the earnings of every voyage had fallen short of disbursements, and that he feared some years must elapse before we got back to pre-war conditions. The same remark applied to-day. While crop prospects in Australia and India were hopeful, there was no indication of a rise in freights, and the war in China was seriously affecting their trade with that country.

During the war our Government built a great many steamers. Very wisely, as soon as the war was over, they got rid of them, and at high prices, for trade was booming. Not so wise were Canada, America, Australia, Brazil, and Portugal, which held on to their State-owned steamers. These had been competing with privately owned vessels the world over, with the result that these countries had lost millions of pounds which had had to be made good by the taxpayer. Some of these Governments were now attempting to dispose of their ships, but the vessels, if sold, would not realise one fourth of their cost. In saying this he was not exaggerating. He recently bought for about £60,000 two steamers which had cost a certain Government no less than £600,000 only four years ago, and heaven only knew how much more they had cost in the interval.

It was, he continued, not within the capacity of public servants or Government departments to manage great international enterprises such as shipping.

He would like to quote a trenchant speech which he had heard Lord Birkenhead make in the House of Lords a few months ago—"You cannot master the business system of this country in the cloisters of Oxford and suddenly take up and deal with a most complex organisation which has developed and grown up with centuries of our life. You can no more become an adequate and intelligent reformer in this respect than you can at the age of 50 or 55 go suddenly into the practice of law or medicine. The whole business is one of the most extraordinary nicety and complexity, and to attempt to deal with it without the advantage of most careful preparation is to invite a sure and certain failure."

Lord Birkenhead's axiom was, he thought, illustrative of the fallacy of any Government embarking on shipping or business of any kind. Such businesses were built up by men who had been trained for and had devoted themselves to commerce. It would, he believed, have paid the shipowning Governments to have sunk their ships rather than to have kept them running during the last four years. When Governments had rid themselves of the incubus of State-owned vessels, the public might see a moderate return to prosperity in the shipping industry. Meantime the shipbuilding yards of this country would have many empty berths, with resulting lack of employment; but shipowners would not go on building ships unless they could expect a reasonable margin of profit.

Governments would be better off if, instead of competing with private enterprise, they took a share of business profits in the form of income-tax. If they continued to run ships, they would fail commercially and, to make good their losses, would have recourse to additional taxation.

A Hopeless Enterprise.

He had, he continued, heard a good deal lately of a proposal to build six 20-knot steamers to carry only passengers, mails, chilled meat and fruit between England and Australia, a proposal in which the Commonwealth Government had been invited to assist financially. Application had also been made to the Trade Facilities Committee for public money to finance the project. It was said that £9,000,000 would have to be put into the venture. Such proposals had been hardy annuals for twenty-five years. Let the promoters, he said, go to the public for the money; he doubted if they would get it, and if they got it he doubted whether the subscribers would ever see any interest on their investment. It was much more likely that the principal would vanish. In his opinion the whole idea was doomed to failure. In his (the speaker's) opinion—he might, he said, be wrong—it would be sounder to leave the public to subscribe any money required to develop the industry.

Building and Operating Costs.

Shipbuilding costs were still from 60 to 70 per cent. above the pre-war level, mainly through high wages and low output in the shipbuilding and contributory trades, while overhead charges in yards not fully employed were a serious cost factor.

Continuing, he quoted figures, taken from British and foreign tenders for railway material, to illustrate the difficulty British manufacturers had as against continental manufacturers in competing for orders for their factories and employment for their workpeople. For wheels and axles, the highest British and continental tenders were respectively: British £1,350, continental £800; the lowest tenders: British £920, continental £678. For steel tyres for locomotives, the highest tenders were: British £1,988, continental £1,531; the lowest British tender was £1,891, continental £1,119. For steel springs, the highest tenders were: British, £2,040, continental £1,706; the lowest, British £1,463, continental £978. The lowest tenders for locomotive boilers were: British £94,691, continental £54,695. These samples, he said, could be multiplied. The current f.o.b. quotations for English bar iron were £8 2s. 6d. to £9 16s. 6d., against, for continental bar iron, £5 10s. to £5 12s. 6d. He believed, however, that continental prices were rising, as continental firms found they were working at a serious loss.

In London and the outports used by the P. and O. the cost of loading and discharging showed a percentage increase of about 131 per cent. over pre-war charges; in Antwerp it was a little over 49 per cent. Port dues in London had advanced 63 per cent.; their coal now cost 80 per cent. to 90 per cent. more than in pre-war days. These increases had resulted from the higher cost of labour. Production costs must be reduced in order that our export trade might revive.

Peace in Industry.

It was, he continued, not always understood by the public what effect even a slight advance of wages might have on the community unless it was accompanied by a corresponding increase of output. Despite all suggestions to reduce it, our population continued to increase, we had to depend on other countries for the bulk of the necessaries of life, and we could not pay for these unless we could market our exports. To do this we had to meet, in our prices, the competition of other countries.

Only by persistent hard work and the rigid keeping down of expenses should we get our share of the world's trade, and so be enabled to support our population.

Many orders for steamers had been placed abroad on terms with which our builders could not apparently compete. He supposed hard economic facts would bear their fruit eventually, but meantime the people of this country were suffering. The loss of wages occasioned by strikes during the past few years must have run into many millions, causing great privation among the employees' families and depleting the trade union funds, which had to be restored by levies on the workmen's wages. If this vicious circle continued, Great Britain would become a land of paupers. If common sense were allowed to prevail and our Government departments displayed economy we should, despite drastic taxation, regain our world supremacy in trade and finance. So far ours was the only country which had met its war commitments; our credit remained untarnished; and he believed, despite certain prophecies, London would continue to be the centre of the world's finance. The resumption of

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a free market for gold would be good for trade and good for the City of London.

"Peace and industry" should be our watchword. Much depended on sane counsel by the leaders of labour. His faith in the good sense of the British workman remained unshaken. It was vital, as never before, that our industries should go on unchecked by trade disputes. Thereby we might see, better than a rise in wages, a rise in the purchasing power of wages. This, he was convinced, was the best way to increased prosperity for the country and to a better standard of living for the workers.

Troubles in Australia.

An extraordinary state of affairs had, he continued, lately arisen in Australia. From what they could gather a bureau was some time ago set up in Sydney for the enrolment of ex-Service men as waterside workers. Recently the Labour Union had objected to members of the bureau being employed who were not also members of the Union. The company's steamer Maloja, which had been partly loaded by bureau men in Sydney, was declared "black" on arrival in Melbourne, and could get no cargo. On reaching Adelaide she was there also declared "black," and could get no cargo. They had been informed she would get no pilot or tugs at Fremantle, and would be unable to embark mails, so she was sent into Albany, where she picked up the mails, but she was refused the service of tugs, and passengers had to be embarked in the ship's boats. She was now on her way home, practically without cargo.

Several other steamers were in the same predicament, although they had not worked cargo by bureau labour. One steamer outward bound was not allowed to get a pilot at Fremantle, and when she came alongside in charge of the captain her hawsers were cast adrift, and she had to anchor in the stream. A steamer, chartered by the Australian Commonwealth Line (Government owned) to take cargo from this country to Australia, had been tied up three or four weeks in Fremantle with all her cargo on board, because her crew were not being paid the Australian rate of wages, and the Government had chartered this vessel and laid up some of their own ships because they could not run them except at a heavy loss.

The position was almost inconceivable. They were between the devil and the deep sea, and apparently law and order in the Australian ports did not exist. He had, he continued, implicit faith in Mr. Bruce, the Prime Minister of Australia, to protect his country from what was more or less Bolshevism and to save her trade from such paralysis.

The British Maritime Board.

During the six years in which the Maritime Board, by which seagoing wages were fixed, had been in operation the trade had been free from strikes. The relations between shipowners, seafaring men, and the men's leaders were most cordial. Although in anticipation of improved freights wages afloat were some months ago advanced, there were few vessels which, even yet, were making ends meet in their earnings and disbursements.

The Mail Service.

Their mail service had been carried on satisfactorily, but not without difficulty. Until they got possession of the ships now building, they would not reach the efficiency at which they had always aimed. The delivery of these ships would enable them to revert to the full schedule on all the company's lines.

Last year they carried 700,000 bags of mails, equal to nearly 70,000 tons of space, an increase in ten years of about 100 per cent. of mail matter. This increase to a great extent had resulted from the development of the parcel post, which, even with a limit of 11 lb. per parcel, greatly affected the company's freight traffic.

In the resumption of the fortnightly mail service to and from Australia the directors, looking for additional sources of revenue, had instituted regular calls at Algiers and Port Sudan.

War Memorial.

Three hundred and sixty-one members of the sea and land staffs—258 of the P. and O. and 103 of the British India companies—gave their lives during the Great War. To commemorate the service they rendered to their country a permanent memorial had been placed at the entrance to the board room.

The Political Outlook for Trade.

The Conservatives having taken up the reins, he trusted we might have a stable Government for a lengthened period. Pledges given by the leader of the party not to interfere in trade were sufficient to inspire confidence of the business community. The minds of a certain section of the Conservative Party might still lean towards Protection, but the country had pronounced against this a year ago, and the decision had been accepted by Mr. Baldwin.

The country had now given its verdict as to whether the nation was to carry on with its constitutional monarchy—God save the King—or whether the whole fabric of society was to be demolished.

In Russia, under Bolshevism, murder was rampant, property confiscated, family and moral life destroyed, and the teachings of the Christian religion being annihilated. He did not believe there were two people in four hundred thousand of our population who wished to see their native land reduced to this condition. He believed that not for five years, not for five hundred years, should we have any Bolshevist nonsense in this country. The people would have nothing to do with it.

The Year's Passenger Traffic.

Although cargo had been scarce and freight rates low, passenger traffic had been well maintained. He could not speak too highly of the devotion and zeal of their agents, their shore establishments in all departments, their captains, officers, engineers, pursers and pursers' staff, to whom the board were indebted for the P. and O. Company's popularity with passengers. Any complaint was inquired into with a view to improvement, and every letter of thanks was, he said, sent to the captain for his information and that of those below him.

In the vessels now under construction to take the place of those destroyed by enemy action they were avoiding extravagance in the way of decoration; but every care was being bestowed on the arrangements for the convenience and comfort of the travelling public. This was a matter of great interest to their technical staff and to all of those who were concerned in the success of the new ships, an interest which was shared by his wife and his daughter Elsie, whose suggestions were of value. Lady Inchcape and he were, he said, going with their technical advisers to Belfast next week to go through the arrangements on board the Razmak.

During the year the number of steamers in commission of the P. and O. and allied lines was 445; number of sea miles run, 16,692,686; number of entries into port, 28,773; tons of cargo carried, 14,470,267; number of animals carried, 253,227; number of passengers carried, 1,883,027; average daily number of crew employed, 37,027; expenditure in wages and victualling of crews per annum, £5,127,000.

Trade With Germany.

The Commercial Treaty with Germany negotiated by the President of the Board of Trade, Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, signed on behalf of the British and German Governments within the last few days, and which would shortly come up for that ratification by Parliament, which it would most assuredly get, was, he said, the most important step yet taken towards a renewal of our trade, not only with the Continent, but all over the world. If he might venture to say so, the time had now come when the hatchet had to be buried. Germany was now expiating as far as she could the horrible outrage perpetrated by Prussian militarism; and it was important to resume friendly commercial relations with her, with all the safeguards provided by the Treaty. Our present Government had only been a few weeks in power, and already by the firm steps they had taken in Egypt and by their Trade Treaty with Germany they had vindicated the verdict of the country. The denunciation of the proposed Treaty with the Soviet Government, which

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would have done no more for British commerce with Russia than the Trading Agreement made in 1921, was, he said, all to the good.

The Coming Year.

With regard to the operations of the year on which they had just entered, many of their voyages were not even now covering expenses. Every economy consistent with efficiency was being effected. Until trade revived they would have considerable anxiety. Their Stock Exchange investments, taken as a whole, stood in their books at much less than they would realise if sold to-day. Their ships stood at considerably less than cost, after allowing depreciation at 5 per cent. per annum on the original price; their properties all over the world were well written down. Their allied companies were all perfectly sound, although they too were suffering from the general depression.

The company would, he said, carry on its great work, but if the board had to recommend a lower dividend for the current year they, the stockholders, would, he was sure, accept it philosophically.

A Conservative Policy.

Continuing, his lordship said he had always favoured Free Trade, but now that Protection had had its quietus, at any rate for the time being, by the Prime Minister, he did not know on which side he was except that he was not a Communist, a Socialist, or a Bolshevist. But as long as he remained their chairman he would, with the approval of his colleagues, observe the conservative financial policy which had built up the P. and O. On the other hand, he would continue to adopt what might still be called a liberal policy in marching with the times, and in improving their ships, for the convenience of their passengers and shippers, in large things and in small things.

Suez Canal Dues.

He had been assailed by the Chamber of Shipping more than once to get the Canal dues reduced, and he was not without hope that a reduction would shortly be announced. Although he had no authority to say so, he hoped the reduction would be 25 gold centimes a ton. The dues would then be 7.25 frs., as against 6.25 frs. in 1914. He trusted, if the traffic continued to improve, that a further reduction might be made before long.

As chairman of the London Committee and a vice-president of the board he had never failed to urge that the lower the dues were the more would traffic be attracted to the Canal. His representations had always been received with the greatest courtesy, and he cordially acknowledged that the President of the Canal Company and its officials, by the high quality of their administration and the manner in which their staff in Egypt discharged their responsibilities both as to the traffic and the improvement of the Canal, left nothing in this respect to be desired. The Canal system and its administration were an object lesson against nationalisation of industry. Woe betide this country if railways, banks, shipping, and other enterprises were handed over to Government departments. There would be much weeping and wailing and waiting at the doors, to say nothing of the gnashing of teeth

The Staff—An Appreciation.

He would, he said, continue to add to the comfort and amenities of all those who spent their lives afloat in charge of the company's vessels, from the captain downwards. Their devoted service and their resource in emergencies were beyond praise. Speaking from experience both as a subordinate (they were, he said, all subordinate to somebody; some, he would not say all, were subordinate to their wives!) and from a long experience of administration, he had never known loyalty and discipline to surpass those which characterised the entire staffs, both afloat and ashore, of the P. and O. Company. This, he said, made his work not a task but a real pleasure.

They still drew their young officers from the Worcester under Sir Thomas Sutherland's scheme, and in Captain Sayer (H.M.S. Worcester) they had an admirable disciplinarian and instructor. The young officers were highly spoken of by their commanders; and their respected friend Captain Angus, the company's former nautical inspector, who was with them to-day, put them through a crucial examination before passing them for the service.

A Trip to Ceylon.

He had made a voyage to Ceylon by the new steamer Maloja last winter and came back by the Moldavia. Everything on board went like clockwork, and the vessels were kept like yachts. If anyone wanted to get away from the winter at home he could do nothing better than take a run out from Marseilles to Colombo by P. and O., spend ten days in the charming island of Ceylon, with its delightful climate of Neuralia, and get back to Marseilles after having been absent less than six weeks. If he backed a winner at the Neuralia races at 500 to 1—as he, the speaker, had been credited with doing—he could have his trip for nothing and something in hand, which, as they all knew, he could double with ease at Monte Carlo on his way home.

Directors.

The board had nominated as a director the Right Honourable the Viscount Churchill, who, as chairman of one of our greatest, most up-to-date, and best-managed railways, the Great Western, had had a long experience of affairs. If his appointment were confirmed, as he was sure it would be, they would have in him not only a most valuable but a most agreeable colleague.

Auditors.

He wished to express their great regret at the death of Mr. W. F. Courthope, who had served as auditor with great ability for twenty years. He was a member of the firm of Williams Deacon and Company, and, following tradition, they suggested Sir Robert Williams, of the same banking firm, to fill Mr. Courthope's place.

Mr. F. A. White, whose services as auditor they had had for nearly twenty-five years, also came before them for re-election to-day, and would, he hoped, for many more years.

In conclusion he said that if he had trodden on anyone's toes in his remarks on general topics he hoped he would be forgiven.

Before putting the resolution he would be glad to answer any questions to the best of his ability.

He concluded by proposing: "That the report and statement of accounts now read, which have been circulated amongst the proprietors, be adopted."

Mr. H. N. Gladstone seconded the resolution.

A shareholder said that it was true that the deferred stockholders were getting 12 per cent., but that stock represented only one-eighth of the total capital employed, and, as a matter of fact, the return upon the whole of the capital was considerably less than 3 per cent. He was not complaining of that, as he knew the reason for it. This was a public concern, the premier shipping company of the world, and its business was to "carry on." If the shareholders had to put up with lower dividends in the future until better times came they would have to do so. He hoped that the public understood the position and appreciated the fact that this great company would carry on even at a loss, if necessary.

The Chairman, in reply, said that he agreed that they were getting a very poor return upon the capital employed

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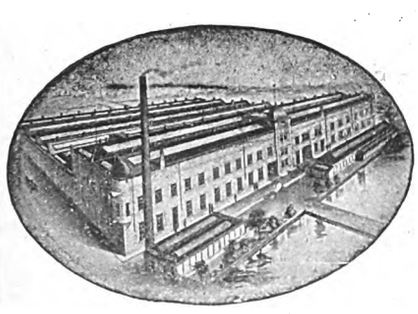

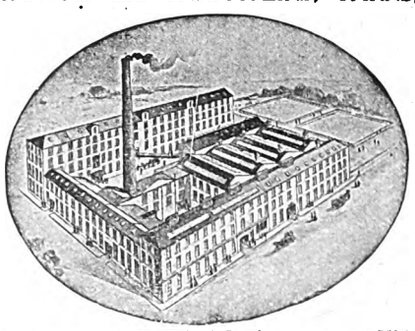

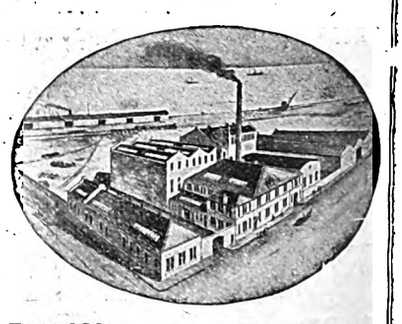

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in the undertaking. Of course, they had paid considerably higher dividends in previous years, not only in actual dividends but also in distributions of bonuses, and the board would be only too pleased, when trade improved, as they hoped it would in the course of a year or two, to give the stockholders a larger dividend than the one they were receiving on the present occasion.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next proposed: "That a dividend for the half-year ended September 30 last of 2½ per cent. on the preferred stock, less income-tax, and a dividend of 6 per cent. on the deferred stock, free of income-tax, as recommended in the report, be now declared, and that payment for the same be made on and after December 12."

Sir Montagu Cornish Turner seconded the resolution, which was unanimously approved.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Sir Charles S. Addis, K.C.M.G., the Right Hon. Viscount Churchill, G.C.V.O., was unanimously re-elected a director of the company.

On the proposition of Mr A. Pitt, seconded by Mr. H. B. Henley, Mr. F. A. White was re-elected an auditor, and Colonel Sir Robert Williams, Bt., was elected an auditor.

Vote of Thanks.

Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, K.C.I.E.: My Lords, ladies and gentlemen,—Before we break up this meeting I have to ask your permission to put another resolution. It is: "That the cordial thanks of the proprietors are due to the chairman, directors, and staff for their continued successful management of the company's business." The shareholders of the P. and O. Company owe to you, my Lord, and to your colleagues on the board, their sincerest thanks for the brilliant manner in which you have conducted their business. It is no little thing to control the destinies of a great concern like ours, and we should like you to feel that we are indeed grateful for the splendid efficiency with which the task has been executed. I trust I shall not be misunderstood if I say that most of us here are thinking that if such results can be achieved in the dry tree, withered by the drought of years of bad trade, what may we not expect when returning normal conditions enable the tree to put forth its green leaves again. I am much encouraged by what his lordship has said on that subject.

Turning to the staff, I know I have a sympathetic listener in your lordship; we perceive that from what you said today, and we knew it before. No one realises better than our chairman what the board owe to the loyal devotion, quiet unassuming industry, resourceful skill and efficiency, and often the magnificent heroism of the staff ashore and afloat. Those of us who are here present have the privilege of tendering to you, my lord, and to your colleagues, our thanks for what you have done for us, and we do so most heartily. I know that I am saying only what all of us are feeling when I ask you to be good enough to convey to the staff, large and small, ashore and afloat, an expression of the shareholders' thanks for, and warm appreciation of, what they have done.

The vote was accorded with acclamation, and the chairman, in briefly acknowledging it, said that it would be a great pleasure to the board to convey the appreciation of the shareholders to the staff of the company both ashore and afloat.

The proceedings then terminated.

The Egyptian Railways have entered into a contract for 150,000 tons of Monmouthshire coal, 100,000 tons to be shipped from Newport and 50,000 tons from Cardiff.

The Government of India has decided to ask the Legislature in January to agree to grant the steel industry in India a bounty limited to 50 lacs of rupees a year.

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CHESS.

By "CARO-KANN."

The City of London Chess Club Championship is now nearing the halfway stage. Sir George Thomas, Bart., is leading with 5½ out of 6, and Mr. R. P. Michell is next with 4½ out of 6.

The following game was played in a recent match between Mr. J. M. Bee (White) and Mr. C. M. Payne (Black). The notes are by Mr. Payne. 1. P—Q4, P—Q4; 2, P—KB4, P—K3; 3, P—K3, B—Q3; 4, Kt—Q2, Kt—KR3(1); 5, QKt—B3, O—O; 6, B—Q3, P—KB3; 7, P—B3, P—K4(2); 8, Q—Kt3, P—B3; 9, QP x P, P x P; 10, P x P, B—B2; 11, Q—B2, B—B4; 12, P—K4, P x P; 13, B x P, B x B; 14, Q x B, Kt—B2; 15, P—K6, R—K; 16, Kt—R3(3), Kt—Q2; 17, O—O, Kt—Q3; 18, Q—K2, Q—K2; 19, QKt—Kt5(4), P—KR3; 20, Q—Q3!, Kt—B3; 21, Q—Kt6!, P x Kt; 22, B x P, KKt—K5; 23, B x Kt, Kt x B; 24, Kt—Kt5, B—Kt3 (ch); 25, K—R, B—K6; 26, P—R4(5), KR—K; 27, R—B3, B x Kt; 28, P x B, Q—K(6); 29, Q—B7(ch), Q x Q; 30, P x Q(ch), K x P; 31, P x Kt, P x P; 32, QR—B, R—Q3; 33, P—KKt3, R—K; 34, QR—B2, R—K8(ch); 35, K—Kt2, QR—Q8; 36, P—Kt4, K—Kt3; 37, K—Kt3, QR—Q6; 38, R x R, R x R(ch); 39, K—B4, R—Q2. Drawn.

(1) The object of this peculiar-looking move is to play P—KB3, Kt—B2, and P—K4 if possible.

(2) White does not give Black time for Kt—Q2 for then Q—B2 with the advantage. The text move sacrifices a pawn, but Black's defensive power is greatly increased thereby, and there is a good chance of presently regaining the pawn.

(3) If 16, P x Kt(ch), K x P; 17, Kt—Kt5(ch), K—Kt; 18, Kt—K6, Q—Q3, with at least an equal game.

(4) This leads to a most enduring attack.

(5) White disdains the draw by R x Kt, etc.

(6) If Kt—K, 29, R—B7, Q—Q3; 30, QR—KB, and Black has no defence to the threat of R—B8(ch).

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Tarantia for Bombay (Liverpool, December 23). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Holywell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 27).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 31).

British India Line.—S.s. Naringa for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 20).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of York for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 20).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S s. Bulgarian for Gibraltar, Piræus, Salonika, Contantinople, and Smyrna (London, January 7).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 27); m.v. Tramore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 3).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Mooltan for Bombay (London, December 19); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January, 10).

Prince Line.—S.s. Scottish Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (Manchester, December 23).

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Activity in Sakel Futures.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended December 4, state :—Since our last report the futures market has shown great activity and strength for Sakel, whilst for Ashmouni it has remained very dull. The net changes on the week are :—Sakellaridis : $2.17 up for January, $1.85 up for March, $1.40 up for May, $0.60 up for November, 1925. Ashmouni : $0.60 down for December, $0.80 down for February, $0.80 down for April, $0.40 up for October, 1925. The feature of the week has been the exceptional strength of Sakel : all the positions have been actively dealt in, and have advanced substantially. The main reason for this is that the demand from abroad continues at such a scale that it equals the arrivals from the villages; furthermore, we understand that straddlers have been active in buying Sakel and selling Ashmouni and/or American. Naturally, these straddles make the position of Sakel somewhat precarious; nevertheless, we think the statistical position is sufficiently strong to resist, at least for the time being, a permanent break in prices. Ashmounis have been only moderately dealt in, and, as a result of the much easier tone of New York, experienced a further drop in prices. The discount of December Ashmouni to January Sakel is now $18.75; we think, however, that Ashmounis have been of late somewhat oversold, and should the reversal of the straddles to which reference is made above coincide with a more active demand from abroad, a sharp reaction might be witnessed. Cotton from Upper Egypt has come down more freely during the last fortnight, but has generally found a ready sale. At the December 1st tender no dockets were issued. The week's receipts amount to 383,041 krs. against export 371,226 krs.; the stock stands at 1,913,294 krs. Spot.—We have had a busy week at Minet-el-Bassal, and sales amount to about 29,700 B/s, of which we estimate 17,200 B/s Sakel, 6,600 B/s Uppers, 4,800 B/s Zagora, 400 B/s Pilion, 300 B/s Brown, and 400 B/s White.

Sakellaridis.—All qualities have been in request, except the very low grades. There is a persistent demand for good and better, and full prices have been paid. Strict fully good fair with extra staple has also commanded good premiums. Spot premiums for fully good fair and above are very firm, with good inclined to go dearer. For good fair and good fair/fully good fair they are without change. The lower qualities are inclined to ease.

Uppers.—All styles have been dealt in, though low grades have only met with a limited demand. Spot premiums for the grades above fully good fair are well maintained. For the lower grades they have eased a little.

Zagora.—A good business has been done mainly in the medium and good grades, which have well maintained their parities with contracts. The lower grades are not in much demand, and have gone a little cheaper.

Pilion.—The demand has slackened for this growth, and the turnover has been rather smaller than for some weeks. Spot parities are firm at last week's rates for the good grades and unchanged for the medium qualities. Prices generally, however, are very irregular.

Brown.—A fair business has been done. Spot parities are generally rather easier.

White has been in rather better demand. Spot parities have, however, eased considerably.

The report of the Alexandria General Produce Association for the month of November reads :—

Lower Egypt.—There was very little cotton to pick in November and that in the Northern districts.—The temperature during the month was favourable to these belated pickings. Actually there is no more cotton standing. As stated in our former report, the yield per feddan is equal if not superior to that of last year, and the ginning yield is inferior.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—There was no picking in November, as the plants had been pulled up. We maintain our estimate of last month.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Position Practically Unchanged.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended December 13 states :—

Conditions have changed little during the past week. Although American cotton has been very steady recently, the development of demand which was confidently expected when such a state of things came about has, unfortunately, not materialised, and it now looks as if it is too late to expect it to do so until after the turn of the year. There is undoubtedly a feeling that, in view of the much larger supplies which are assured, American cotton is dearer than it ought to be, and possibly herein lies the explanation of the continued inactivity.

Yarn.—Operations have been on a small scale, and the tendency is for the position of spinners to weaken. It appears that the larger output is not being absorbed. The very difficult situation in the Egyptian raw cotton market is, of course, acting detrimentally to spinners of that type of cotton. Shipments of yarn last month were 12,792,400 lb., as compared with 13,454,100 in the previous month and 14,619,500 in November last year.

Cloth.—The turnover has been restricted, and buyers appear in the main to be holding off. There has been nothing of outstanding interest in connection with any of the foreign or home markets. Shipments of cloth in November were 329,435,300 sq. yds., as compared with 364,293,000 sq. yds. in the previous month and 349,697,400 sq yds. in November last year.

Raw Cotton.—Fluctuations in American cotton have been small throughout the week. Imports have been on a substantial scale, and the stocks held in Liverpool are improving. The American Agricultural Bureau's final crop estimate, published on Monday last, gave the yield as 13,153,000 bales, of which 12,225,000 had already been ginned. The

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yield was less than had been anticipated. There has been a very substantial rise in Egyptian, and this section seems at the moment to be thoroughly disorganised. It is thought that the present state of affairs is largely due to speculation in Liverpool and Alexandria. The situation is full of awkward possibilities, and is being closely followed. Closing quotations yesterday were as follows:—American Middling, 13.11; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 29.00.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Sharp Advance in Spot Prices.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended December 10:—

Egyptian Spot.—Following an hysterical advance in "futures" last Monday, spot prices here registered a very sharp advance, and at each reaction that occurred a good deal of rather panicky "fixing" has taken place, which, in the aggregate, must represent a severe blow to the spinning trade. Apart from this, conditions here remain practically unchanged from those ruling during the past two or three weeks. Spinners are still digesting the large forwardings which have been such a pronounced feature lately, and the daily sales have continued on a mere hand-to-mouth scale. There has been much talk, both here and in Manchester, of spinners boycotting Sakellaridis cotton on account of the high prices ruling, and rearranging their machinery in order to spin more Uppers instead of Sakel. Undoubtedly there is a certain amount of truth in this statement, but to our mind the significance of the move has been greatly exaggerated. In the first place, a spinner who has spent years building up a connection which is based on certain counts spun from Sakel cotton, is not going to jeopardise that connection by ceasing to spin those counts even at present prices. By doing so he courts certain disaster at the hands of competitors, and it would seem that the ultimate price of Sakel this season rests not so much with the spinner as with the manufacturer. There are, of course, a considerable number of American spinners who have been experimenting with Egyptian cotton and they have no doubt found it profitable at times to meet what was never much more than a surplus inquiry. These are the spinners who now, with the demand for Egyptian yarns temporarily easing off, and with the price of the raw material mounting against them, are the ones to feel the pinch. Naturally enough, with the American contract at 12.75d., they have "gone off" Egyptians.

A usually reliable informant wired us to-day that the maximum quantity of unsold Sakel cotton lying in Egypt to-day was 800,000 kantars, or just over 100,000 bales. Of this quantity he estimates that only 25 per cent. is tenderable cotton. And this in the middle of December with a flourishing trade still proceeding on the Continent. Under these circumstances we really cannot foresee any permanent break in the Sakel basis, even though a considerable percentage of the Egyptian spinning trade should turn permanently on to Uppers, and this is a contingency which for the reasons outlined above we cannot consider very probable.

As usually happens when a sudden price upheaval takes place, the spot inquiry has not been good. Attention has been fairly evenly divided between Sakel and Uppers, the "good" grades of both being chiefly in demand. Good Sakel varies in price from about 250 to 350 on January, and staple cotton appears very hard to find. Fine Sakel of good staple commands a price between 30.00d. and 31.00d., but few are the spinners who will buy at this price. The qualities below Fully Good Fair have been neglected. Good Uppers have changed hands at from 18¼d. to 18½d. Uppers, particularly in Alexandria, have remained remarkably steady in face of the recent excitement, and there is no doubt that should they begin to attract an increased amount of attention from the trade there is room for a considerable amount of appreciation over current prices. White Sudan and Pilion have continued in fair request, but the former is scarce, and price difficulties have imposed a check on business in the latter. Brown and White Egyptians have been neglected, but the basis for the former shows a pronounced hardening.

C.i.f. business is officially reported as quiet, but there were rumours current over the week-end that one or two good lines had been placed in Manchester. Little appears to have been done beyond March, however, and we doubt whether the majority of spinners are booked beyond February. Forwardings for the week ending 5th inst. were returned at 9,215 bales. Estimated sales 1,400 Egyptian, and 160 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakellaridis are raised 180 to 230 points, those of Brown 165 to 215, and Uppers 25 points. Fully Good Fair Sakel to-day 28.05d.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Department of Overseas Trade notifies that the Commercial Secretary for Roumania (Mr. R. J. E. Humphreys) has secured new office premises at Bucharest, situated between the Athenée Palace Hotel and H.M. Legation. The new address of the Commercial Secretariat is: Strada Episcopiei 6, Bucharest.

The East Indian Railway Company recommends a dividend from the surplus profits account of 7s. 10d. per cent. on the deferred annuity capital and the deferred annuity capital class "D," in addition to the guaranteed interest of £1 13s. 4d. per cent. for the five months ending December 31, 1924, and 3s. 10d. per cent. compensation paid by the Secretary of State for India on account of income-tax.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the United States Ambassador in London signed on December 3 a convention with respect to the rights of the two Governments and their respective nationals in Palestine. The convention is subject to ratification on both sides. Its object is to give United States nationals the same rights in Palestine as are enjoyed by nationals of countries which are members of the League of Nations

The newspapers state (says a Reuter message from Bucharest) that the Danube Commission at the last session decided to undertake works to ensure a depth of 19 ft. at the entrance to the Sulina branch and of 18 ft. at the exit. It is hoped that the new dyke will be completed by the spring of 1925. In order to meet the expenditure, the Commission has decided to levy its taxes on shipping on a gold basis, payments to be calculated according to the exchange on the 1st and 15th of every month. At the same time, the formalities with which shipping has to comply will be simplified.

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Paid up Capital - - £1,000,000
Reserve Fund - - £340,000

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†MANTOLA ...	8,963 ...	Dec. 20 ...	Jan. 3 ...	Madras & Calcutta
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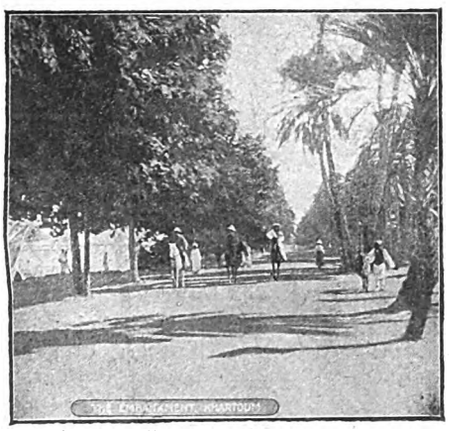

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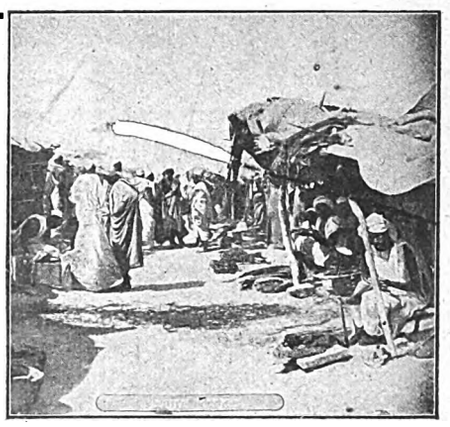

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 711—Vol. XXVI. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1924.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Fighting in Albania.

It is not easy to unravel the truth from the falsehood in regard to what is happening in Albania. That fighting is taking place is not denied; but whether it represents merely a bid for power on the part of Albanian exiles or is a genuine protest of a section of the people in the country against the administration of Mgr. Fan Noli remains for the present an open question. As Ahmed Bey Zogu is admittedly associated with the movement, there is *a priori* evidence that the revolt has been arbitrarily provoked from across the Albanian frontier. Its origin, however, is perhaps not so important as its fate. If Ahmed Bey Zogu were to find himself back in power in Tirana in the course of the next few days or weeks, there is nothing to suggest that he will be able to govern Albania more efficiently or more successfully than last year. He was credited with the intention of profiting by his banishment to pursue a course of study in Europe, and after a lapse of years to qualify for the leadership of the Albanians. It seems a pity that he has allowed himself to be turned from his former purpose, if he ever entertained it. If it be correct that Mgr. Fan Noli allowed his immediate predecessors in office to be condemned to death, and actually confiscated their property, he asked for trouble and will receive it in due course. The first statesman to arise in the Balkans will be the man who can take by the hand the politician whom he has supplanted, lead him to a conference table, and there say: "The times are too serious for our personal quarrels; let us see whether we cannot co-operate solely for the country's interests." When a cleric assumes the highest office in the State, it was to be expected that an end would be put, at least, to political proscription.

Yugoslavia's Position.

Yugoslavia's position in regard to the rising in Albania is a delicate one. The Belgrade Government states that it has lent no aid to the rebels and has no designs on the independence of Albania. Its statement can be believed. On the other hand, we have to bear in mind that Yugoslavia is terribly exercised in mind over Italian designs in the Balkans. Rightly or wrongly, it regards Italy as a perpetual menace to the policy of "the Balkans for the Balkan peoples," and any movement or event that seems to promote the Italian cause in the Peninsula is held to call for prompt action on the part of the Yugoslav Government. It may have been that the Cabinet of Mgr. Fan Noli was credited with being a pawn in the Italian game. If such was the belief in Yugoslavia, it would explain why Ahmed Bey Zogu was received with open arms, and a blind eye turned to his intrigues against the Tirana Government. The excuse may seem valid in Serbia; but it will carry no weight with the League of Nations. The wisest course seems to have been adopted in Rome by agreeing with Italy upon a self-denying ordinance, under which both countries undertake to refrain from any interference in the internal affairs of Albania and pledge themselves to support the development of its independence. If Yugoslavia can be relieved of all anxiety regarding Italian designs on Albania, there will be no need for her to run the risk of prejudicing her reputation in Europe by allowing people like Ahmed Bey Zogu to abuse Yugoslav hospitality. Unfortunately, her mistake does not really serve to bring her nearer her goal, which may be supposed to be that of friend, philosopher, and guide to the Albanian people. The Yugoslavs may sacrifice themselves and their good name for the *beaux yeux* of Ahmed Bey Zogu, as they did for Essad Pasha before him, but their action merely embitters Albanians as a whole. Only by strict impartiality between conflicting interests can the Yugoslav Government hope to disentangle the interests of Albania as a whole from the petty ambitions of designing chiefs. In a boxing match the rôle of referee is superior to that of the seconds who hold sponge or towel.

Cui Bono?

It would be interesting to learn what good those concerned, directly or indirectly, in the Albanian rising hope to derive from it. Albania stands to lose her independence, for one day there may be an end to Europe's patience, if there is to be no

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end to civil strife in Albania. The complaint that blame rests upon Italy or Yugoslavia or both can be met with the retort that, whoever may be responsible for the intrigue, it is the Albanians who do the fighting. Although the Belgrade Press may make a great point of Ahmed Bey Zogu's arrival in Albania from France, it is well known that preparation for the rising must have been made while he was still in Serbia. It will be difficult for the Yugoslav Government to explain this away, and its prestige would have been higher if the fighting in Albania had not broken out again. The League of Nations also becomes involved, for the pointed charges of the Tirana Government raise an awkward problem. If Yugoslavia is to be taken to task, it would be well that the League should previously examine the situation created by Italy's claim to a preferential position in Albania. There is everything to be said for the contention that there is room in the Balkan Peninsula for the Balkan peoples only. One day they will, it is to be hoped, form a single confederation, and Italy will be well advised to have her interests in the Balkans at that time severely restricted to matters of commerce and finance. The present trouble affords an excellent opportunity for the League of Nations to carry the settlement of the vexed Balkan question many points farther; but it will be well not to start off with the conviction that the whole blame is confined to Yugoslavia. Even if it were, there would be much to say for a settlement that would enable the hatchet to be buried and a fresh start made in Albano-Yugoslav relations. It would be of considerable advantage to the peace of the Balkans if a hard-and-fast rule could be made that no ex-Minister of a Balkan State, who exiled himself from his country, should be allowed to find refuge anywhere on the Continent of Europe.

The Œcumenical Patriarchate.

A new election to the Œcumenical Patriarchate has taken place in Constantinople, and the Turkish civil authorities have informed the new Patriarch, Mgr. Constantine VI., formerly Metropolitan of Therapia, that he is subject to expulsion under the Convention for the exchange of Greek and Turkish populations. The argument in support of the Turkish ruling is that Mgr. Constantine came to Constantinople after 1918; the Greeks on the other hand claim that the Phanar is the legal domicile of Metropolitans, and that the new Patriarch, as a former functionary of the Patriarchate, is entitled to remain in Constantinople. The question has been submitted to the Commission for the Exchange of Populations; but it would have been a tactful act on the part of the Turkish Government if the question had not been raised at all. Turkish interests are in no way affected, whether Mgr. Constantine or an "established" prelate becomes Patriarch. The policy of exchange has been carried through on a sufficiently wide scale to fulfil the purpose that the Turks had in view, and the time has now come to show that the new order in Turkey is quite as capable of constructive work as of merely destroying. Its object was to deal a final decisive blow to the designs on Asia Minor, to which M. Venizelos committed Greece. That object achieved, the sooner the Turkish Government can establish correct relations with Greece the better for the material progress of Turkey. A voluntary decision to waive any challenge of the election of the new Patriarch would have impressed not only Greece, but a wider section of Europe. If the challenge is a cloak for the desire to oust the Patriarchate from Constantinople, Turkey will be continuing a policy that stands to do her in the long run more harm than good.

INDIA.

Plain Truths for Burma.

Sir Harcourt Butler's speech in Durbar at Rangoon seems to have complied, of course, by anticipation, very closely with the prescription of plain speaking which we ventured last week to offer to Whitehall and Delhi. The mentality of the Burmese differs widely from that of Indians, but they share one weakness at least in their susceptibility to delusions, and in both countries alike liberalisation has been assumed to be the precursor of abdication, with the result that all sorts of people have been busy staking out claims in anticipation of the ground being left vacant. In Burma, curiously enough, the priests seem to have taken the initiative in this direction, and they are no better as politicians than the priests of other countries further West. Probably their hearers are, on the whole, wiser, and it is among them that we may look for a result of Sir Harcourt's firm declarations that the British are not leaving Burma, and that the common talk of intimidating the Government is sheer madness. In India also there has been plenty of talk about intimidation of late. It is the fruit of ignorance and inexperience, but it is not the less mischievous for that.

The Durbar and the Legislatures.

Looking back over some recent official pronouncements, one is tempted to think that the Durbar will for a time hold its own against the Legislative Council. The Durbar consists of the natural leaders of the people, summoned to receive the orders of the Ruler. The Council also will in time, if the hopes of England are justified, consist of the natural leaders, but for the moment its composition is very different, and, with so many people trying to play parts for which they lack the essential qualification, there is an atmosphere of make-believe, through which the actual facts can scarcely be discerned. Even the Governor himself often seems to be affected by this atmosphere when he addresses his Council, and essential facts get blurred, but in the purer air of the Durbar they stand out clearly, and from the immediate audience they spread downward and outward to circles which as yet pay very little heed to the proceedings of the self-styled leaders in the Council. There will, we suppose, be no Durbars in the federation of autonomous provinces of which India will one day consist, but to-day, and also to-morrow, they can serve a most important purpose in bringing truth to people's doors.

Sir Frank Sly's Farewells.

We must not omit to record that Sir Frank Sly has been telling a good many home truths in his farewell addresses in the Central Provinces, the little political Alsatia which he is about to hand over to Sir Montagu Butler. His recent speech at Jubbulpore shows how he treated the rather grotesque demand which has arisen in the Hindi-speaking north for secession from the sharper-witted south. The north complains that it does not get fair treatment: the remedy Sir Frank offers is that it should choose representatives fit for their work. The northern districts are suffering now for their own defects, a backward electorate, and the failure of the old and leading families to take the position they can claim. The dream of secession would only land them in the United Provinces, where they would be worse off than now; if the natural leaders will but get to work, they can make a party in the Council strong enough to secure a fair share of whatever is going; but, so long as they sit idle, they must bear the consequences.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Morning.

The Government.

Parliament adjourned last week, leaving a considerable impression of the might of the Government. In foreign affairs it obviously intends to stand no nonsense, and although Mr. Chamberlain chose to indulge in the traditional exaggerations as to the success abroad of British foreign policy—*e.g.*, his exclamation that he had to return to England from the Continent to hear anti-British sentiments—there is little doubt that the Government's foreign policy is being respected by both our friends and our rivals. The conviction prevails that at last we have an Administration which knows its own mind, and is not to be deterred from pursuing it by any such domestic considerations as have hampered the various British Governments since the War. Opposition to this policy has so far, in fact, been based on purely personal or party considerations; whether, before Parliament meet again, better grounds for opposing Mr. Chamberlain's policy will reveal themselves is a matter of opinion.

The affair that is really stirring up hornets' nests is the declaration by the Prime Minister concerning Imperial Preference and the Safeguarding of Industries. It is not quite clear yet exactly how much protection the Government intends to introduce into this country, for the qualifications which Mr. Baldwin gave for the assistance to any particular trade of Government protection were vague. On the question of Imperial Preference there is not much doubt that the country as a whole is with the Government. But this support is not so certain in regard to the obscure matter of Protection.

It is claimed by those who follow Mr. Baldwin in his proposals that some such scheme was essential, owing to the changed conditions, that something had to be done to relieve unemployment—a spectre which the Premier has since he entered politics consistently attacked. The scheme is, briefly, to give the Dominions a preference in our market by means of a subsidy—the cost of preference to be borne by the British public as taxpayer and not in higher prices to the tradesmen. And the Bill that is to be analogous to the Safeguarding of Industries Act is not really the thin edge of the wedge of Protection; it will apply only to industries of "substantial importance."

Against the scheme there is a good deal being said. It is pointed out that almost anything—depreciated currency, low wages, long hours, and so on can now be made an excuse for a tariff. Little is expected from the committee which Mr. Baldwin is constituting to hear the demand of any industry for the protection of a tariff. The criticism is not easy to overcome that the difference between the Government's plan and Protection is that under Protection a manufacturer gets a tariff whether he wants it or not, but under the new safeguarding of industries he only gets it if he asks for it.

The opinion of the country obviously cannot be formed until the vagueness of the Government's intentions is dispelled and the actual machinery has been set up.

Ecclesiastics Diversions.

The storm which for a long time has been brewing round the head of the Bishop of Birmingham, who has not shrunk from heartily attacking the Anglo-Catholics, has at last broken—the journals being wet with angry tears. For such an attack there were plenty of ecclesiastics, and, even more formidable, ecclesiastically-minded persons, lying in wait; these have pounced with their traditional vigour upon the unfortunate Bishop. Quickly to the defence of Bishop Barnes have swarmed various "intellectual" leaders of the Church, including the redoubtable Dean of St. Paul's. It has now become an exciting diversion, but whether it has much real significance I should hesitate to say. From neither side is there any superabundance of digestible food for the starving flocks. At the moment, indeed, most fame seems to fall to the lot of bishops and deans through their facility and versatility in the quotation of limericks.

The Birth-Rate.

One does not know whether those most gloomy people of our time, the Malthusians, will hail this year's falling birth-rate as a triumph of their doctrines, or will decently cease from troubling us. It is said that this year the birth-rate will stand about 19.4 per 1,000 of the population, as against 19.7 in 1923 and 20.4 in 1922. At the same time, of course, the death-rate is declining; and the upshot of this is that the population is increasing by about 300,000 persons a year. Obviously, the death-rate cannot decline very much more, so that there must come a time when the population begins to decline. It has been stated, in fact, that a decline has been in progress for about forty years.

Into the causes of this, and into the hopes and fears caused by it, I confess I am not competent to enter. There are always people who can be frightened or encouraged by statistics. If they do not grumble at the ever-increasing population, the impossibility of its economic subsistence, and so on *ad nauseam*, then they are gloomily predicting the decline of our race.

"The Freeman's Journal."

Whatever one's views upon the history and the rights and wrongs of the Irish question, there can be few who did not lament the passing last week of the *Freeman's Journal*. It was a very good paper, full of that courage, colour, and lack of proportion which may perhaps be said to characterise the temperate Irishman. To one who, like myself, reads very many newspapers in a week, there was a most refreshing touch about the *Freeman's Journal:* you could disagree with it, but you could not possibly misunderstand it. It was, therefore, never your enemy. For all its waywardness and violence (or because of them?), it never stooped to the sitting-on-the-fence and double-dealing, unprincipled methods which have stamped some of the more successful but less considerable journals of our modern time.

Labour Leaders from Russia.

Much bickering and wonderment have been caused by the report of the Trade Union delegates who recently visited Russia, for the notion that all was discontent and misery under the Soviet régime had become almost a shibboleth in this country, even in some official Labour circles. Practically every unofficial sympathiser with Labour in this country who had visited Soviet Russia had returned convinced of the tyranny of Moscow; and yet these latest visitors maintain that even in such a place as Georgia there are content and a certain prosperity!

The whole subject is one of importance, and not to be dismissed with appeals to prejudice and sentiment. It may be that Mr. Purcell and his colleagues were spoonfed by the Soviet authorities, that they were permitted to see only what the Soviet people wished them to see; but all this will need proof. It happens that I have heard a good deal on both sides of this Georgian question, and even now I am not prepared to swear that these Trade Union delegates are right or wrong.

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However, it is always a subject which arouses a certain amount of passion, and it is sure to provide some fun in the way of wild and unrestrained talking.

Labour's Latest Recruit.

The act of desperate volunteering which Mr. Augustus John has just performed in joining the Labour Party seems to have puzzled those who make it their business to give publicity to, and to make comments upon, such unimportant events. It has been ingeniously suggested that Mr. John's declaration of allegiance to a defeated minority party was a *quid pro quo* for the election, during the régime of a Conservative Government, of Mr. Frank Dicksee to the Academy. One had certainly not connected Mr. John with any political tendencies, or with any belief in his ability to give a "message" to mankind. Artists of his *genre*, in fact, generally avoid politics: it is only the less successful people—poets like Shelley—who imagine that they are "the unacknowledged legislators of mankind."

Christmastide.

I could not think, nor could anyone tell me, of any better way of forestalling the spirit of Christmas than going to hear John Coates singing his programme of Christmas and festive songs last week in the West-End. It was at once an artistic and a humanising experience. No matter whether it was Tudor jollity or Georgian mirth, French grace or *élan*, German simplicity or English wistfulness that the singer was indulging, he was supreme in all. He succeeded, even, in getting a West-End audience to join in choruses, and those who know the limits of such audiences will realise that good-natured audacity could no further go. An even greater accomplishment was his persuading that superb accompanist, Mr. Berkeley Mason, once or twice to doff the mask of melancholy.

If only Mr. Coates' art were as infectious as his humanity! It was easy to laugh and be merry with him as he sang "Maulte's Come Down" or "Qu'ils sont doux" or "Christmas doth make an end," but could we sufficiently admire the beauty and distinction of him in Henry VIII.'s "Grene groweth ye holy," in Dent's and Hardy's "The Oxen" (at least in the second attempt), and in Armstrong Gibbs' and de la Mare's "Mistletoe"? In fine, a most pleasant and vital evening, provided by one of the finest of English artists and gentlemen.

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Cricket and Rugger.

The hearts and eyes of all sportsmen are at this festive time rather in Australia than in Britain and on the midday paper than on the morning paper. Nothing has set people talking so much as the success of Tate and, generally, the fine fight that this country is putting up against a team which is manifestly as full of genius and grit as ever. Schoolboys at this moment are dreaming of the Test Match at Sydney, where, it has been said, it is a Lotus-land, always afternoon and three hundred or so for two wickets; and they are praying that Tate may bowl 'em all out, and that Hendren will hold his catches, and that Hobbs and Chapman will each score several centuries.

From the Rugger point of view there does not seem to be such optimism. It was disquieting to find The Rest beating England on Saturday, and there is little doubt that, though we shall field our best available side against the victorious All Blacks next January, it is not so good a side as we had, say, two years ago. However, hope is large—and Twickenham itself may do the rest.

London Theatres.

Theatreland is in an interesting condition at the moment. The tears that theatre-managers have so lavishly shed have fallen on rather dry ground, and the public is no more disposed to listen to their plaints when it reads of the resumption of theatre-building. On the whole, those theatre-managers who lose money deserve to.

The noticeable point about the new theatres is that all of them are small, and, too, so are all the projected ones. There are some, indeed, who talk of the doom of the larger theatres, that is, those of the type of Drury Lane, Covent Garden, His Majesty's, the Lyceum, and Princes: it will be very instructive to watch the fate of Mr. Basil Dean's venture in producing "Midsummer Night's Dream" at Drury Lane. The present tendency in building is undoubtedly to follow rather the Little and the Ambassadors than the middle-sized theatres, such as the Gaiety or Daly's, or the Shaftesbury Avenue houses, or even than the smaller Royalty and Court type. In music there is, of course, the same tendency: the smaller concert-hall, the *concert intime*. It is in the main due rather to economic than to artistic reasons, and there will without doubt be a revulsion from it later on.

Street Chaos.

Last week the Minister of Transport gave particulars of the constitution of the new Traffic Advisory Committee, which has since held its first meeting. The problem with which this Committee will have to deal is becoming increasingly heavy, and it is not made easier by the fact that it covers questions other than that of strictly vehicular communications. There is the matter of the regulation of vehicles which use the streets, and there is the closer control over the streets themselves. Something, of course, will be done in the constructing, widening, and general improving of streets, but the main difficulty will probably be encountered in the ridiculous abundance of motor-traffic (implying the question of trusts) and in the segregation of fast from slow-moving traffic.

ALTER EGO.

A Royal decree has been issued in Cairo appointing Mr. E. Tatton-Brown, formerly Assistant Director of the Customs Administration, Director-General of the Egyptian Customs in succession to Mr. H. Macauley, retired.

General Weygand, the former French High Commissioner in Syria, arrived in Paris last Friday, accompanied by Mme. Weygand. He was welcomed at the Gare de Lyon by Marshal Foch.

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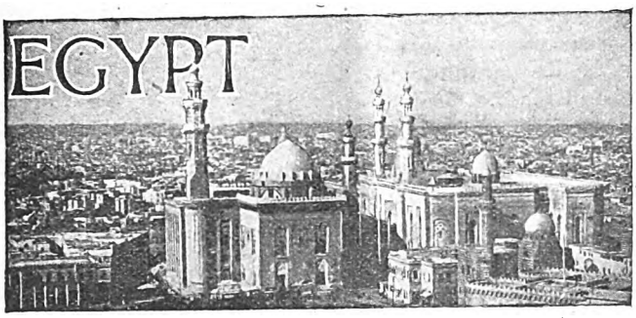
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, December 13.

Ismail Sidky Pasha at the Interior.

The political situation underwent an important development this week when Ismail Sidky Pasha was appointed Minister of the Interior. The new Minister is no stranger to readers of THE NEAR EAST. After a long period of service in the Ministry of the Interior, where he reached the senior post of Under-Secretary of State, he first attained Cabinet rank in 1914 as Minister of Agriculture; he entered the Adly Cabinet in 1921 as Minister of Finance, and was a member of the Official Egyptian Delegation that went to London that year to negotiate with the British Government; he and Sarwat Pasha conducted the negotiations with the British Government which led to the British declaration of February 28, 1922; and he again held the Finance portfolio in the Cabinet which Sarwat Pasha formed in March of that year.

His capacity and intelligence are recognised by everyone, be they friend or foe, and his assumption of the important position of Minister of the Interior has been received with dismay by the Zaghloulists. They have good reason to know from the exploits of Fathalla Barakat Pasha, who was Minister of the Interior under Zaghloul Pasha, what influence that post exercises throughout the land. There is, however, no fear of the re-establishment of an era of intimidation such as that master-propagandist introduced, and there is, indeed, every prospect that the country will be able to breathe once again and the provincial administration be carried out without the persistent interference from outside which marked the Zaghloulist régime.

The presence of Ismail Sidky Pasha at the Ministry of the Interior should also have a salutary influence over the elections, which are expected to take place some time in February. While in certain respects the Zaghloulists owed their victory at the polls last year to the popularity of their leader, there is little doubt that their crushing victory was due to the campaign of intimidation and coercion which they and their agents waged throughout the country. As far as they can be free in such a country as Egypt, the coming elections should be relatively free, and it will be no surprise to find that the Zaghloulists end by being in the minority. Already what may be regarded as a sign of the times has been afforded this week at the by-election held at Minet-El-Kamh. A Wafd candidate again won the seat, but his majority was reduced to about one-third of what it was at the elections last autumn.

The Judicial Adviser.

Sir Sheldon Amos has had his contract as Judicial Adviser renewed by the Council of Ministers for six months from November 27. His contract expired on November 27, but the Zaghloul Cabinet raised objections to its renewal, as it held that the post of Judicial Adviser was incompatible with the status of Egypt as an independent sovereign State. The question of the Advisers having been settled by the settlement arrived at on November 30 between the British and the Egyptian Governments, and their status as fixed by the declaration of February 28 having been definitely recognised, the Ziwar Cabinet has, as mentioned, renewed the contract. The renewal is, however, for six months only, instead of the usual period of five years—the reason being that Sir Sheldon Amos wished to retire, but agreed to stay on for this short period in order to tide over the present difficult situation.

Parliament.

There is every reason to believe that the dissolution of Parliament will take place on the eve of the expiry of the adjournment. Ziwar Pasha replied to the Deputies' petition for an immediate re-assembly of Parliament by requesting them to state specifically whether they asked for an extraordinary session in the terms of Clause 40 of the Constitution, or whether they demanded a reduction in the period of adjournment in regard to which the King had already exercised his prerogative. The Deputies, realising that a direct answer to either of these questions would put them in the wrong, merely replied that they wanted a re-assembly of Parliament no matter how it might be possible to bring about. There the matter remains for the moment. It is expected that the Cabinet will reply by a refusal in the course of the next few days, and that a week later the dissolution decree will follow.

Ministers' Pensions.

The Cabinet this week took an excellent step by abolishing the regulation by means of which any Government official who has served twenty years can on entering the Cabinet obtain immediately a pension of £E1,500 a year in lieu of the ordinary pension, the minimum of which is £E960.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Iraq, and Persia.

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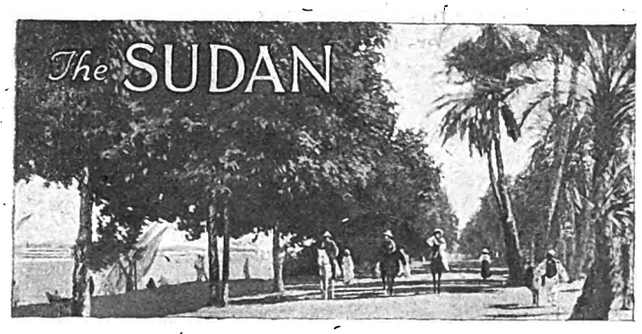
This decision was taken in consequence of the scandal—it was nothing short of that—caused by the resignation of Osman Bey Moharram, who as a result of but one week's presence in the Cabinet had his pension raised from £E800 to £E1,500, which was more than he had been actually drawing in pay six months ago.



Khartoum, December 7.

The Sirdar.

Consternation is rather a mild word to use as expressing the feelings of the inhabitants and residents of this country when news arrived stating that the Governor-General of the Sudan had been shot and lay dying at Cairo from the treacherous hands of some unknown Egyptians. From all quarters of the country native merchants, sheikhs, and notables maintained a regular stream of telegrams expressing feelings of horror and wishes for his speedy recovery, and all people coupled themselves with the Acting-Governor-General, Wasey Sterry, Esq., C.B.E., in his telegram of sympathy sent to Lady Stack.

Sir Lee Stack died on Thursday evening, November 20, at 11.45, and the funeral took place at Cairo on Saturday morning.

In Khartoum a memorial service was held, timed to take place concomitantly with the Burial Service in Cairo. It was attended by approximately 2,000 residents, comprising nearly every nationality. They faced a terrifically hot sun to pay their last outward token of love and respect to their late leader, for Sir Lee Stack was beloved by all with whom he came in contact, and all felt that by his death they had experienced a definite and personal loss.

The service was simplicity itself and of short duration, and, following the singing of the last hymn, the "Last Post" was sounded and the piper's lament, "The Flowers of the Forest," was played.

Britain's Action.

The British Government's Note to Egypt consequent upon the murder of Sir Lee Stack was handed to Zaghloul Pasha, the Egyptian Premier, on Saturday, November 22, a few hours following the burial ceremony.

Item 5 of the Note—the evacuation of Egyptian troops from the Sudan—was applied immediately, and troops were evacuated party by party.

The officers of the 3rd Battalion and the Artillery, fearing subsequent action by the Egyptian Ministry of War should they evacuate prior to the receipt of orders, "sat tight," and would not move. They stated they desired King Fuad's own order of evacuation. No war having been declared between the two nations, this attitude was tolerated by the military authorities pending the arrival of the letter by special courier, Bimbashi Amin Eff Heiman. The aeroplane conveying this officer had to land at Atbara, and the Government despatched the messenger to Khartoum by special train. With King Fuad's authority for evacuation in their possession, the officers and men entrained for Port Sudan, where transports were waiting to convey the troops to Egypt. By the end of the month practically the whole of the Egyptian forces stationed at Khartoum had been removed.

Mutiny of 11th Sudanese.

On the afternoon of November 27 two platoons of the 11th Sudanese Battalion mutinied as a result of continuous propaganda carried out by pro-Egyptian enthusiasts in the Sudan during the past few months. The Sudanese had been persistently accused of dishonour and of having ignored their oaths of fealty to King Fuad, King of Egypt, and the head of the Egyptian Army under whom they served. The two platoons, which had crossed from Omdurman earlier in the day for special duty, marched through the streets of the city and towards the bridge spanning the Blue Nile. *En route* they were stopped by McCowan Pasha, who, discovering that they desired to join the Egyptian troops at Khartoum North, attempted to dissuade them from such an action, and urged them to return to barracks. The reply of the officer in command was that if McCowan Pasha did not immediately depart, he would be shot. This officer at once reported the circumstances to the General Staff, and Huddleston Pasha, Acting Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, proceeded to the place where the Sudanese soldiers were drawn up by the side of the road, their further progress having been barred by a picket of British troops. Huddleston Pasha approached them and called upon them in the name of the Sirdar to return to quarters. The reply was to the effect that the Sirdar was unknown to them, and they would, therefore, obey none of his orders. The mutinous intentions of the party having been thus proved beyond doubt, Huddleston Pasha stepped back, and ordered the picket to open fire on the mutineers. By this time dusk had fallen, and the Sudanese experienced little difficulty in forcing an entrance into the Egyptian Military Hospital, when they killed Major Carlyle (Second Medical Officer), Sergt. Renshaw (Egyptian Army), and two Syrian doctors. British troops were soon brought forward, and, after a short struggle, drove the Sudanese from the hospital, across the compound, and they eventually took possession of the officer's mess. Fighting in the area continued during the night and the early

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hours of the morning. The position held was a very strategic one, as the attack could only be made from two sides—front and rear.

The British adopted rush tactics, but these proved futile and costly; the plan was changed, and artillery was introduced to smash the building. This was a particularly delicate undertaking, as a direct hit had to be registered with every shell—for the hospital, filled with sick, was situated immediately behind the line of fire. This feat was accomplished and, assisted by bombs with rifle fire, the position was finally reduced to ruins. It is difficult to estimate the number of enemy casualties until the whole of the débris has been cleared. The British and Egyptian section of the community assembled at the Gordon College and the Palace, whilst other nationalities proceeded to the White Nile, where they stayed until the situation had been restored to normal.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, December 15.

Party Politics.

As stated in my last letter, the presentation of the Budget has raised the hopes of the Opposition that the days of the Liberal Government are now at last numbered. In view of the difficulty experienced abroad in understanding the trend of party politics in Roumania, I have thought it of interest to obtain the point of view of the Opposition parties in regard to the policy that Roumania ought to pursue at home and abroad. The Liberal Party under M. Bratianu stands on the merits of its achievements in office, and does not need to state its case more precisely.

As it is generally supposed that, in the event of a change of Government, the People's Party, under General Averescu, would succeed the Liberals, I give first the ideas on the questions of the day of that political group, which have been kindly summarised for THE NEAR EAST by M. Mancilescu, who, although young, is regarded as one of its most brilliant leaders.

The People's Party.

Why does General Averescu's party not support the Government, and what are, broadly speaking, the divergencies of opinion between that party and the Liberals?

Between the Liberal Party and the People's Party there is an organic difference and a difference of doctrine. The Liberal Party is an old Roumanian party dating from before the War, and retains the stamp of its origin. The People's Party is the product of the new spontaneous movement of the masses aroused by their sufferings and sacrifices during the world War, and these masses have grouped themselves around the most representative personality of his time, General Averescu, the leader of the party. Thus, while the Liberal Party represents almost exclusively a large bourgeoisie in the throes of birth, the powerful organisation of the People's Party embraces the interests of all social classes and, what is more important, of all the different parts of the greater Roumania which has emerged from the War. It might, therefore, be stated that the Liberal Party is a class party, whereas the People's Party aims at the conciliation of all social interests.

Those differences of doctrine are not without practical consequences. Take, for example, the collaboration of foreign capital. Whereas the Liberal Party fears that the infiltration of foreign capital will produce an eventual weakening of the national "bourgeoisie," the People's Party is of opinion that an honourable and wide collaboration of foreign capital is a necessity of these times for the prosperity of the country.

What, in your opinion, is the present situation of the Liberal Party in regard to the country and to the Opposition?

In the eyes of the country the Liberal Party is losing ground. In order to come into power it promised an amelioration of the economic and financial situation which has not been realised. The country has no further hopes from the Liberals, and, according to the well-known saying, "Quand on ne peut plus faire naître des espoirs on ne peut plus gouverner" (When one can raise no further hopes one can no longer govern).

As regards the Opposition, it can never forgive the Government for the general elections. The Parliamentary majorities of to-day are far from representing the will of the people.

Would General Averescu's party be disposed to accept power? What would be its programme? Has it a plan of action as regards the economic situation and the financial crisis? Generally speaking, would it consider the introduction of foreign capital, and in what way? Would it not abandon those principles of State which prevent foreign capital from collaborating effectively?

Our party has never demanded power, but, through the expressions of its leader, General Averescu, it has declared itself ready to accept the responsibility if the Crown and the electoral body give it their confidence.

Our programme embraces all the needs of the country at the present moment. The parts of this programme which I wish to emphasise are: the completion of agrarian reform (which is the work of our party) by the intensification of agrarian production; the prompt re-establishment (at whatever sacrifice) of the railways, the maintenance of which has been neglected by the present Government; the favouring of loyal and friendly collaboration of foreign capital, and, finally, a monetary reform consisting essentially in the stabilisation of the leu at or near that level at which it stands when the stabilisation becomes possible.

The stabilisation of the currency is indeed indispensable in order to attract foreign capital. On the other hand, an eventual general inflow of foreign capital would, in turn, strengthen the national currency by ensuring not only the balance of accounts, but even a surplus in our favour.

As regards the conditions to be imposed upon foreign capital in this country, the People's Party guarantees all possible security; legislative continuity, perfect respect of contracts and rights acquired, and the cessation of all one-sided mea-

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sures for the protection of individual Roumanian interests at the expense of foreigners, such as the moratorium, the "Loi d'Imprévision," etc.

The party is of opinion that Roumania must be more careful of the good name of her merchants than of the higher or lower value which the leu may attain.

What would be the attitude of your party towards the Mining Law?

The system of annulling the work done by another Government is indeed a most deplorable system, and although it was practised by the present Government in regard to certain laws made by the Government of the People's Party, it is certain that our party will not imitate this unhappy example. On the other hand, as foreign investments stand in a direct connection with the normalisation of the country, it is equally certain it will not hesitate to eliminate all real difficulties in the way of such investments.

Why does the party not join with other Opposition parties, and what would be the basis of a possible agreement?

The People's Party has several times declared itself ready to unite with other Opposition parties, but on condition that this union should not have the transitory character of a governmental collaboration, but should be a definite fusion of parties.

Do you think the present Cabinet will remain in power until its programme of legislative reforms is completed?

It is not possible that the Government remain in power until what it calls "its task" is completed. The country is tired of its experiences; it does not believe that its happiness will be assured by new laws, but rather looks for practical measures which might alleviate the monetary crisis and stop the rise in prices.

The impatience and irritation of the people may attain proportions which it would not be wise to allow to grow dangerous.

Do you consider that the succession of General Averescu is assured? On what would you base this assertion?

If it is just and logical that the most powerful party in the country should succeed the present Government, the best balanced party, that which has experience of the affairs of State and enjoys the highest consideration through the personality of its leader, by the wisdom of its former action and of its future programme, then the People's Party should succeed.

[In the next letter I hope to record the opinions of M. Raducanu, one of the leaders of the Peasants' Party.]

PERSIA.

Teheran, November 19.

The American Advisers.

From the seventh quarterly report of the Administrator-General of the Finances, the English text of which has just been published, it is evident from Dr. Millspaugh's prefatory remarks addressed to the Minister of Finance, that the American Advisers have not been able to rely on the wholehearted support of the Government, to which they should be entitled. Dr. Millspaugh remarks that, in order to make their task a success, they must have the co-operation of other departments of the Government, and this co-operation they did not receive during the first quarter of the current Persian year. He goes on to say that the work of the Advisers met with criticism and obstruction; their contracts were violated; no active steps were taken by Persian officials to give them effective support; the Budget was not passed, and threats were even made in the Parliament to reduce the credits proposed for the Ministry of Finance, which were essential if the work of collecting revenue and controlling expenditure were to be proceeded with. He complains that the treatment by the Mejliss and Government of the Budget was one of the most serious difficulties with which they had to contend, and that these actions have undoubtedly delayed for at least a year the execution of any fundamental plans for the economic reconstruction of Persia. He pays a tribute to his staff, American and local, and concludes by saying that if the work entrusted to them of financial reform is eventually a failure, the responsibility rests on those who have ignored their advice, rejected their proposals, interfered with their efforts, and created innumerable difficulties for them. For those who hoped so much from the advent of the American Financial Mission the above report is not very encouraging reading, and it is little wonder that with such an unfriendly atmosphere prevailing and such an obstructionist attitude adopted by the Government, the Advisers should have lost heart in their thankless task, and there is little hope that any of them will remain after the expiration of their three years' contract, if, indeed, they stay so long.

The Situation in the South.

The situation arising out of the Sheikh of Mohammerah's open defiance of the Central Government continues to be the topic of the moment, accentuated as it has been by the Prime Minister's visit to Ispahan and later to Shiraz, where he now is. The report was current last week to the effect that Sardar Sepah intended to proceed to Bushire from Shiraz, and meet the Sheikh with a view to arranging an amicable settlement with British mediation, Sir Percy Loraine, the British Minister (who last week arrived in Baghdad from leave, with Lady Loraine) having proceeded to Mohammerah to see the Sheikh and to examine the situation. This report aroused much indignation here, and a secret session of the Mejliss was summoned to discuss the matter. The meeting expressed very strong disapproval of any such action on the part of the Prime Minister, and denounced any interference by foreigners. The matter being brought to the notice of Sardar Sepah by telegram by the Military Governor of Teheran, the Prime Minister replied in a strong, angry wire emphatically contradicting the report, which he ascribes to his many enemies, and denying any such intention on his part, pointing out at the same time that he will seek advice or counsel from nobody, and will act in whatever way he deems most advisable in the interests of his country, whether it be in waging war or in negotiating peace. This telegram is typical of Persia's "strong man," and shows his independence of the advice of others, and that he will brook no interference in his actions as head of the Government.

November 20.

The papers this morning publish the text of a telegram despatched by Sheikh Khazal to Sardar

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Sepah at Shiraz, which means the end of the former's defiance of the Central Government. The Ministry of War had published a few days previously a *communiqué* announcing the advance of the Government forces towards Dizful, and also successful engagements against the Sheikh's followers by the column from Behbehan, and further reported that throughout Arabistan the tribal chieftains and tribesmen had risen against the Sheikh of Mohammerah, and that some of these had burned one of his palaces at Hamidieh. Whether these reports were actually true or merely a case of the wish's being father to the thought, it is difficult to say in a country like this; but it seems very probable that the closing in on him of the Government troops and the turning against him of tribes on whom he thought he could rely, persuaded the Sheikh that the game was played out, and decided him to throw up the sponge. Khazal's telegram is couched in the meekest terms, and commences by stating that he had been led astray by scheming intriguers, who had told him that Sardar Sepah was ill-disposed towards him, but now that he had found this not to be the case, he hastened to express his deepest regrets and repentance for his recent actions against the Government. He begs the Prime Minister to accept these assurances of his regret, and states his entire willingness to serve the Government faithfully henceforward and obey the Premier's orders. He adds that he hears Sardar Sepah intends to proceed south, in which case he hopes he may be allowed to meet him and tender his apologies and regrets in person and show evidences of his devotion. The reply of Sardar Sepah to this telegram was curt and to the point; he merely acknowledges receipt and accepts the Sheikh's repentance conditional on absolute submission only. The Sheikh's reply is not yet known, but there seems no doubt that he will consent to any terms laid down by Sardar Sepah, who has thus, once again, proved his complete ability to deal successfully with any internal disorders, and justified the formation and upkeep of an efficient army.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, Undated.

General News.

The island still suffers from depression. Although the exports and imports for the quarter ended September 30 exceed considerably those of the corresponding period in 1923, imports exceed exports by £6,445. The rainfall has been satisfactory, and agricultural prospects are good. Snow fell early this year, the hills being covered at the end of November. An invitation to Mr. Asquith in Cairo to visit Cyprus was dispatched in accordance with a resolution passed at a meeting of the "National Council" that one should be sent to the distinguished statesman who was Prime Minister in 1915, when Cyprus was offered (conditionally) to Greece!

A "Pan-Cypriot" Pamphlet.

A pamphlet recently published, and issued by the "Pan-Cypriot Agricultural Association," which has an Executive Council of seven Greeks and four Turks, contains a resolution which was forwarded to the High Commissioner, in view of the critical situation which has arisen during the last two to three years. Dealing with the paramount problem of an increased water supply, it calls upon the Government to come to a decision on the still unsettled question whether artesian supplies can be made available. It is false economy to allow any further delay, and expert opinion should be called in. If underground water cannot be so obtained, some provision should be made for other works. Proceeding to the proposed abolition of tithes on cereals, practical suggestions are made for the adoption of other sources of revenue to replace the present system. They include a very slight increase of the tax on real property, on salt, cotton, silk, cotton yarn, glass, cement, etc., and fresh imposts on wine-shops and coffee-houses. The total increases would yield £64,044, or an average equivalent of tithe, after deducting part of the cost of assessment and collection. The pressing need of an agricultural bank, which would make advances to needy agriculturists at not more than 8 per cent., and many other matters are dealt with. The resolution discusses the very serious evil which is believed largely to account for the great falling-off in the demand for Cypriot products, *i.e.*, the suicidal habit of the villagers of adulterating almost every article which it is possible to depreciate by methods which are dealt with in no sparing terms. Whereas, it says, "other people endeavour to present their goods in as attractive a manner as possible, one may say in Cyprus that, on the contrary, every care is taken to give an appearance of the most miserable quality." The Government is asked to deal with this crying evil by Draconian legislation. It has long been a subject of bitter complaint. The depreciation of property is referred to. Villagers' lands are being sold for a twentieth part of their value, while the costs of legislation have been enormously increased. Many other matters are touched upon, and the pamphlet, whatever its effects may be, is one of great interest.

A Council Appointment.

Mr. G. du Boulay, Island Treasurer, has been appointed a member of the Executive Council.

Prince and Princess Arthur of Connaught arrived in Bombay last Friday. Their Royal Highnesses were welcomed by Sir Leslie Wilson, the Governor, and Lady Wilson, and motored to Government House. Their Royal Highnesses left Bombay the following evening for Poona, returning there on December 22 before proceeding to Calcutta.

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IN UNKNOWN ARABIA.

The Arabian Deserts of Jafura and Jabrin.

At the Æolian Hall, on December 15, Major R. E. Cheesman, until lately A.D.C. to Sir Percy Cox in Iraq, lectured to the Royal Geographical Society upon his visit last year to the Deserts of Jafura and Jabrin, in Arabia.

There are few places in the world to-day that have not been seen by European eyes. The North and South Poles have, one by one, given up their secrets. The deserts of Africa have been crossed and re-crossed. The Great South Desert of Arabia has not only never been crossed, but, of the few European travellers of different nationalities who have been allowed to enter the country, but four can claim even to have had a distant glimpse of the outskirts. It is satisfactory that the first to set foot in, and bring back views of, this virgin desert is an Englishman.

Major Cheesman, in describing his journey across the waterless Jafura to the oasis of Jabrin, said that while staying as the guest of Ibn Saud, the Wahhabi Sultan of Nejd, he was sent with men and camels to stay with the Al Murra, an Ikhwan tribe that roams in these inhospitable wastes. He showed photographs of these nomads, and remarked on the similarity between their features and those seen on ancient Sumerian sculptures, suggesting that they might be the descendants of this, the earliest known civilisation. He also learned of a place called Magainma, in the sands, about one hundred and twenty miles south of Jabrin, and drew attention to the resemblance between the name Magainma and that of Magan, or Maganna, a lost country frequently mentioned on Sumerian inscriptions, and supposed by some authorities to have been situated somewhere in the region of the Persian Gulf.

Jabrin itself, which has long been veiled in mystery, was found to be a depression with date palms and ruined castles, reputed by the bedawin to be haunted by spirits. The desert is encroaching on all sides, and the wells are drying up. Ancient geographers had filled in the blank space in this part of the map of Arabia by introducing a lake and two rivers, Wadi Aftan and Wadi Jabrin, flowing across the desert, important features in forming an opinion on the hydrography of an unexplored country. Lately doubts had been cast on the possibility of their existence, but it remained for Major Cheesman to sound their death-knell.

He crossed the mile-wide channel of the Wadi Sahba, and was thus able to confirm its position and importance as a drainage channel that once carried the waters of the Nejd highlands across the great Arabian peninsula to flow into the Persian Gulf, at the same time indicating the land-slope of some 300 miles of unknown country. The course is now choked in places by drift sand, and it is probably at a remote period of the world's history that it was a flowing river. Certain stones from the gravel plains in this area are believed by the bedawin to be bewitched, and are said to be seen rolling along the ground. One was brought home and was exhibited at the meeting.

The Jafura Desert, a vast tract of moving sand dunes, was mapped along its western side, and new information indicating the boundaries of sand and gravel plains was obtained from the Al Murra. Specimens of a fish which lives in hot water were also exhibited. They were caught in a hot spring at Hufuf, of which the temperature was 101 deg. Fahrenheit. A hot bath of that temperature is almost too hot to get into.

There were photographs of the ruined town found by Major Cheesman on the coast at Oqair, which is supposed to be the site of the ancient Phœnician port of Gerra. Near by the phenomenon of the singing sands was encountered on the beach, where each footstep brings forth a mysterious, piping whistle.

A map was made of all the country passed over, and the positions of Oqair, Hufuf, Wadi Sahba, and Jabrin were accurately fixed for the first time by astronomical observations.

Some remarkably pale desert-coloured animals and birds were obtained, which show, to a wonderful degree, how a fauna is capable of developing colours to harmonise with its environment. Some of these were exhibited side by side with their darker neighbours. The collections made during the expedition contained nine species and eight sub-species new to science, and among the geological specimens were some beautifully polished stones, showing the effect of sand blast, and equalling in effect the work of a jeweller.

Among those present were Lord Rothschild, Sir Percy Cox and Lady Cox, Sir Arnold Wilson, and Dr. D. G. Hogarth. Lord Rothschild, Sir Percy Cox, and Dr. Hogarth contributed to the discussion after the lecture.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Earl of Balfour hopes to be present at the opening of the Jewish University in Jerusalem next year.

Sir Robert Horne arrived at Rangoon on December 17 in connection with the meeting of the Burma Corporation shareholders.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Sefton Brancker, Director of Civil Aviation, left Aleppo last Thursday morning, flying directly to Baghdad.

M. Marinkovitch, the former Yugoslav Foreign Minister, has been paying a private visit to Sofia. This is the first time for ten years that a prominent Serbian statesman has visited Bulgaria.

An aeroplane of the German Junker Company, carrying the first aerial mail in Persia, left Teheran on December 16 for Enzeli. The mail was conveyed from Enzeli to Baku in a seaplane in five and a-half hours.

The body of Major Lilly, M.C., 3rd Battalion, 7th Rajput Regiment, the British Military Attaché in Kabul, who died of appendicitis, was conveyed to Peshawar, where the funeral took place on December 18.

Certain unknown persons on December 15 shot and seriously wounded the Public Prosecutor of the Sofia Court. He had received threatening letters following the severe measures which he had taken against Communists.

A Dutch engineer, M. de Roode, for many years engaged on construction work at the port of Rotterdam, is joining the Turkish service for the purpose of extending or constructing harbours at Constantinople, Mersina, Trebizond, and Samsoun.

The Bucharest *Official Gazette* publishes text of a law fixing a maximum penalty of ten years' imprisonment for plotting against public peace and order, for membership of associations to provoke disorders, and for those guilty of entering into relations with foreign Communist bodies.

Mgr. Constantine, Metropolitan of Derkos, has been elected Œcumenical Patriarch, in succession to the late Mgr. Gregorios VII., although he has been warned by the Turkish police that he is an exchangeable subject under the Convention for the Exchange of Populations with Greece.

The *Morning Post* Geneva correspondent states that, in virtue of the decision of the League of Nations Council, the International Court of Justice will meet at The Hague on January 12 to decide the interpretation of the word "established" in relation to Greeks domiciled in Constantinople who claim exemption from obligatory exchange under the Lausanne Treaty.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

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December 12, 1924 (Old Style).
Jomada I., 28, 1343 A.H., of the Moslem Calendar.
Kisley 28, 5685, of the Jewish Calendar.

Mr. and Mrs. Sterling sailed on December 19 in the s.s. Mooltan for Egypt.

The Earl and Countess of Dalkeith arrived at Bombay last week from England.

Noureddin Bey, Turkish Inspector of Finance, has arrived in London from Angora.

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee, Indian High Commissioner in London, sailed from Bombay last Saturday.

Hechmat Bey, secretary at the Egyptian Legation, left London on December 17 for Cairo, on leave.

M. Dimitri Stancioff and Mme. Stancioff have arrived from Varna in London, where they will be staying for the next few months.

Sir Robert and Lady Gardiner have left London for Westwood, Mayfield, Sussex, where they will spend the winter.

Sir Stephen and Lady Demetriadi have left London for St. Moritz, and Lady Demetriadi will be away until the end of March.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownagree left on December 16 for Mentone, and will remain on the Riviera for reasons of health for two months.

General Yoxsimovitch and Captain Kovatchevitch arrived in London last Thursday from Belgrade in connection with Serbian war debts.

Sir Alfred and Lady Mond are leaving London for Palestine and the Near East in the first week in January. They will be away until March.

M. Gregoire Michaesco, Commercial Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, who recently underwent a serious operation while in Switzerland, returned to London last Friday.

General Sir William Birdwood, Bt., whom His Majesty invested with the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (Military Division), had the honour of being received by the King last Friday at Buckingham Palace.

Lieut.-Colonel H. J. Solomon, O.B.E., M.C., was presented on December 12 at the offices of the Economic Board for Palestine by the exhibitors at the Palestine Pavilion at Wembley with a silver salver engraved with the Wembley lion and the following inscription:—"Presented by the exhibitors at the Palestine Pavilion, British Empire Exhibition, 1924, to Lieut.-Colonel H. J. Solomon, O.B.E., M.C., who brought Palestine to Wembley."

Sir Archibald and Lady Birkmyre, Sir Montague Barlow, Sir Francis Oppenheimer, and Sir T. J. and Lady Strangman left London last Thursday by the P. and O. Bombay express to join the s.s. Narkunda at Marseilles. Sir Warden Chilcott and the Thakur Sahib of Rajkot joined the Narkunda at Marseilles for Bombay.

Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen will preside at a general meeting of the Near and Middle East Association on "The Balkans," to be held on Thursday, January 8, 1925, at 8.30 p.m., at 14, Hans Crescent, S.W.1, by kind permission of Mrs. L. Cobham. The speakers will be the Rt. Hon. Sir Maurice de Bunsen, Bt., G.C.M.G., Miss Edith Durham ("Fresh Light on the Serajevo Crime"), and Sir Edward Boyle, Bt. ("The Present Situation in the Balkans").

The President (Lord Lamington) and the Council of the East India Association gave a reception at the Caxton Hall on December 15, when the guests included:—Lady Pentland, Viscount and Viscountess Willingdon, Earl Winterton, Colonel Sir Charles Yate, Sir Michael and Lady O'Dwyer, Sir Lionel Jacob, Sir Reginald and Lady Mant, Sir John Maffey, Sir Patrick Fagan, Sir William O. Clark, Sir Stuart Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Sen and the Misses Sen, Sir Henry and Lady Stone, Sir Francis and Lady Oldfield, Sir Armine and Lady Dew, Mr. F. J. P. Richter, Mr. and Mrs. John Nicholson, and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Rice.

December 17 was the thirty-sixth anniversary of the birthday of King Alexander of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. King George's congratulatory message was conveyed by Major-General Sir John Hanbury-Williams, Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, to Dr. Georges V. Todorovitch, the Chargé d'Affaires at the Legation, whence it was transmitted to King Alexander. Cards were left at the Legation on behalf of the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the Lord Chamberlain, the State Chamberlain, and the Comptroller of the Ceremonial Department. At noon M. Todorovitch, with the personnel of the Legation and prominent members of the Yugoslav colony in London, were at the Russian Church in Buckingham Palace Road, where a *Te Deum* was sung. In the afternoon a reception was held at the Legation, at which the guests included the Greek Minister, the Polish Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. J. B. Monck, Mme. Yovanovitch, M. Miyatovitch, formerly Serbian Minister in London, and Mr. Frank Hastings.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1924.

TURKEY AND GREAT BRITAIN.

Foreign affairs are engaging the attention of the authorities in Turkey more than Press notices would lead the general reader to suppose, and more than might be expected from a country that claims to have become independent of the rest of the world. The fact is that there are some shrewd thinkers in Angora. Turkey felt called upon to make a clean sweep of the past, and, as so often happens in similar circumstances in the humbler domain of domestic life, a certain amount of what was still serviceable or even invaluable was got rid of in the process. As soon as there has been time for these things to be missed, the question arises whether they can be dispensed with entirely, and, if not, how can they be replaced without loss of "face." There is reason to suppose that in the seclusion of Angora this stage has been reached. The glamour of splendid isolation has passed. It was flattering to Turkish *amour propre* to cozen the nation into believing that in driving the Greeks into the sea it was really defeating Europe. Russia had been "squared" for the time being, and the Western Powers were not going to stand by Greece; so there was no danger in the boast. Things, however, have a habit, especially in international politics, of not standing still. The makeshift arrangement with Soviet Russia has served its temporary purpose, as far as Turkey is concerned, and indications are multiplying that there is a fundamental antagonism between Russian and Turkish interests, whether the Soviet be in power in Moscow or a Tsar be on the throne in Petrograd. A factor of immediate importance for Turkey is that Russia is about to receive back her Black Sea fleet. The Turks may be satisfied that they have nothing to fear from the Red Army; but a Red Navy of any strength opens up unpleasant possibilities. Those who must be supposed to be best able to judge, that is to say, Turkish naval circles, are admittedly exercised in mind, and are inclined to adopt the attitude that they cannot stand by and see the country go under in the particular sphere for which they are responsible, merely to serve some dogma of the politicians. Hence it comes about, if for no other reason, that responsible circles in Turkey are being compelled to consider seriously Turkey's international relations.

Some inkling of what is passing at Angora must have reached the Constantinople Press: but as it is not cumbered with the responsibility that besets those charged with the duty of preserving the Turkish State, it can afford to indulge in the obsolete views of yesterday and strike a spurious note of patriotism by inveighing against foreign designs. The change of Government in Great Britain was received with some misgivings in Turkey, from the general idea that the British Labour Party must be easier for a foreign State to get on with than either of the other parties. Accordingly a sharp watch has been kept on the new Government's words and actions with a view to finding confirmation of the misgivings. The firm attitude adopted in the face of the latest development in the Egyptian murder campaign and Mr. Austen Chamberlain's conversations in Paris and Rome have been regarded as fitting in with the Turkish theory, and have afforded a text to the Constantinople Press for fresh homilies on Great Britain's hostility towards Turkey. In this, however, the lack of understanding between Constantinople and Angora is further exemplified, unless, indeed, the papers are being used by the section at the capital which is supporting the vigorous bid that Germany is now making to become paramount once again in Turkey. For it has to be remembered that the aloofness from Turkish affairs which the British Government has cultivated, not from hostility to Turkey, but from a studied desire to refrain from anything which might embarrass the new régime, is not practised by other Powers. Under various guises, commercial in Germany's case, frankly political in that of France, there is keen competition to benefit from Great Britain's apparent eclipse in Turkey. During the lifetime of Mr. Lloyd George it will, no doubt, always be possible to obtain some sort of a hearing in Turkish chauvinist circles for warnings against British "hostility," for few Turks seem to have sought consolation by reflecting on the present fortunes of the "great enemy of the Turkish race" in terms of parliamentary following. Thus, when a proposal is made to the Turkish Government for closer co-operation with Great Britain, as it may be taken for granted has recently been done on the part of Turkey's naval authorities, opposition is certain to be encountered from the section of the Cabinet pledged to play the German game. Gradually the logic of the whole position is being proved to be against the German party, and it is at this precise moment that a definite appreciation of the fact is called on the part of the British Government.

A dispassionate analysis of the situation in Turkey suggests that the new order, in an undoubted striving after better things—if better only from the Turkish point of view—will either show some marked improvement on the old, or will gradually slip back into former ruts. At the worst, then, Great Britain has nothing to lose by friendly co-operation with Turkey; in standing by at the present time she may, on the other hand, be the means of leading Turkish efforts into more practical channels. If the diagnosis here attempted be correct, Turkey, or at least a responsible section of Turkish opinion, is conscious of needing a friend among the nations; but pride in what is summed up in the substitution of the Lausanne Treaty for the Treaty of Sèvres runs high, and if there is to be an admission of administrative mistakes since, it will be by implication only. Great Britain's main interest is to see Turkey well governed, efficient, and progressive; she has no scores to wipe off, and can be indifferent to the hasty legislation of recent date which has proved almost as embarrassing for Turks as for foreigners. She must recognise, however, that after what has taken place Turkey will feel a certain diffidence in making the first overtures. The initiative to better relations between Turkey and Great Britain should be taken by the British Government. It need be little more than one of those diplomatic gestures which can mean much in international relationships. Without a formal agreement the two countries can so understand one another that British business interests will acquire the necessary confidence for taking part in the development of Turkey, and with material progress the work of improvement in other spheres will be greatly facilitated.

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COMMUNISM IN THE BALKANS.

The report that the Yugoslav Government proposes to approach the Bulgarian Government with a view to joint action in dealing with Communism will, it is to be hoped, prove to be correct. No harm would be done if the neighbouring countries of Roumania and Greece were to be invited to take part in the discussion, as Communism is a menace shared by all the Balkan States, and, if concerted measures are advisable, none probably will be as permanently effective as those which are carried out simultaneously and uniformly throughout the Peninsula. A conference of the four States, moreover, would ensure a wider field of discussion, for it is possible that investigation will prove that the experiences of the different Governments are not entirely the same. Communism, theoretically, should take on more or less identical forms in each country, but it is clear that this is not the case. An interchange of views, therefore, between representatives of the four States might, in addition to providing for common action, suggest to one or more of the Governments that the reason why a neighbour has had less difficulty in contending with the nuisance is to be found in its wiser attitude towards it. The Balkans might have been expected to be the last portion of Europe to be infected with Communism, yet the fact remains that in one country at least the menace has assumed a more dangerous aspect than anywhere else, Russia alone excepted. In Greece, it is true, it cannot be said to have made any headway; in Yugoslavia it presents certain peculiar features; in Roumania it would seem to owe the little hold that it has on the country to geographical proximity to Russia. For Bulgaria alone can Communism be said to have become an actual and ever-present preoccupation, although the reported proposal of the Yugoslav Government suggests that it, too, finds cause for uneasiness in the outlook. A conference on the lines indicated would do well to call upon each country to trace as dispassionately as possible the genesis and subsequent growth of Communism, in order that where mistakes in policy are clearly recognisable other countries may benefit by the experience.

Conditions in Bulgaria.

In Bulgaria it is suggested that Communism in its present form takes its origin from the establishment after the War of a society of officers who were dissatisfied generally with the state of affairs then existing in the country and with the Government in particular. They called themselves Communists, as the word appeared to them a convenient term with which to label their quarrel with the authorities. Very few of them, if any, would have subscribed to more than a modicum of Communist doctrine; but they were in a state of discontent, and consequently offered a useful field to any skilled agitator. They were gradually steered, it is alleged, in a Communist direction by a couple of politicians, who were quick to appreciate the political value of the material on which they could work, and it was as lip-adherents of Communism that they became a political party. When Stamboliski came into power he was anxious to secure all the support that he could in the country, and readily accepted the co-operation of the Communists, who by this time had made a notable advance in their adherence to the more extreme doctrines of Communism. Before long Stamboliski found himself obliged to pay more heed to the Communists than he had bargained for, and there can be no doubt that shortly before he met his death he had determined to break with a party that had been instrumental in extending his hold on the country. He had not, however, proceeded far enough in this direction to make the bourgeois party that succeeded him in office consider it necessary to draw any sharp distinction between the Agrarian Party and the Communists. In every Balkan revolution there are a good many scores, official and unofficial, to be paid off, and it is not usual to ask for instructions from headquarters. Rightly or wrongly, considerable bodies of peasants previously associated with the Agrarian Party regarded themselves as being in danger, if not of extermination, at least of being roughly handled by the agents of the new party in power, and they turned instinctively to the Communists, who by this time were possessed of some weapons of defence. It is not necessary to follow closely every stage that has led up to the present state of Communism in Bulgaria, suffice it to say that, for one reason or another, numbers of peasants found themselves thrown into the arms of the Communists, to the natural encouragement of the latter, who were by now wholly the tools of Soviet Russia. Nothing better exemplifies the alienation of the peasants than the fact that Bulgarian troops encounter almost insuperable difficulties in trying to deal with any serious case of brigandage—a term which has to include the time-honoured "taking to the hills" as a protest against the powers that be. But for the passive resistance of the peasantry, due to secret sympathy with their cause, the handful of outlaws who have operated so long in the neighbourhood of Bourgas and defied the attempts of troops to capture them must have been overcome or dispersed. Official Communism in Bulgaria was dealt what ought to have been a knock-out blow in the autumn of 1923, and one of the problems before the Government to-day would seem to be to distinguish between the genuine article and the spurious Communism, which will adopt any label that promises it help in its quarrel against constituted authority.

Yugoslavia, it may be supposed, is primarily interested in doctrinaire Communism lest the more specious arguments of Soviet Russia are used to bolster up Croatian Republicanism in its fight against Serbian centralisation. The evil genius of Moscow may be behind each movement; but it does not follow that the means of combating the intrigue must be the same. If Yugoslavia were to decide that the danger to which she is exposed is on all fours with the history of Communism in Bulgaria, then she would still have to make up her mind whether she would adopt the policy that appears to have made Communism in the neighbouring country such a formidable problem. If, for instance, it could be shown that centralisation can be persisted in only to the encouragement of Communism there would be graver misgivings in Belgrade in regard to a policy which in its earlier stages at least can be so easily justified. Any attempt to identify Croatia with Communism because the Croats line themselves up behind M. Raditch, and M. Raditch goes to Moscow to talk pleasant words about the Third International, must seem to some Serbians as wholly incongruous with the considerable business interests in Croatia which must inevitably suffer if Communism were to become the supreme power in the State. Nevertheless, it is impossible to speak of Communism in Yugoslavia without a side glance at Croatia, and the Croat business interests continue to humour M. Raditch, or at least not to oppose him, because they cannot resist the pleasure of seeing someone twist the Serbian lion's tail. Such a state of affairs

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would not seem to call for the drastic methods that have temporarily suppressed Communism in Bulgaria, only at the expense, it may be found, of driving it underground.

A Practical Step.

There is, however, one measure which suggests itself as a means of winning all the countries of the Balkans back to more tranquil ways of living. At present the police are apt to regard themselves not as a permanent institution, with a status and traditions of its own, but merely as agents of the Government, under the Ministry of the Interior of the day. If, in addition, they happen to be badly paid, it is inevitable that they should feel obliged to eke out a livelihood by other means. If in each country there could be an efficient, adequately paid police force, organised preferably under a foreigner (as is, indeed, the Greek force), acting under the Ministry of the Interior, but in no way subordinated to party politics—a force that could acquire a pride in itself and inspire respect—the first step would have been taken towards the elimination of civil strife and the deadly political feuds that interfere with the material progress of the Balkans. One outcome of such a force would be that each country would have a more potent guarantee than it possesses at present for the holding of fair elections, with the result that it would be enabled gradually to build up a proper system of party government, instead of being taught to regard each swing of the election pendulum as an invitation to inflict material damage on political opponents.

Whether agreement is reached or not, every conference between two or more Balkan States is to be welcomed as an earnest of a desire for co-operation on a wider and more lasting basis.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

HELPING THE RIFI.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—Referring to the reports which have appeared recently in the Press to the effect that the Rifi are very badly in want of medical aid and supplies, and to the refusal of the Spanish authorities to assist in any way in providing them, or giving them passage, I beg to inform you that this Association has, after considerable correspondence on the matter with the authorities and societies concerned, decided urgently to appeal to the public for funds wherewith to help these unfortunate people.

May I beg you to insert this letter, and state that contributions for the purpose may be sent direct to myself at 35, Catherine Street, S.W.1?—I am, etc.,

EDWARD GLEICHEN,
President, Near and Middle East Association.
December 16.

According to *The Times* Calcutta correspondent, the Calcutta Corporation has granted three months' leave of absence, without pay, to Subhas Chanda Bose, its chief executive officer, who, since his arrest under the Bengal Ordinance on October 26, has been a prisoner in Berhampore Gaol, and has appointed a deputy to act for him during that period.

THE ASSYRIANS.

On December 12, at the Royal United Service Institution, Major A. W. D. Bentinck, who had served, among other places, in Egypt, Somaliland, Abyssinia, and Kurdistan, lectured to the Central Asian Society on "The Assyrians," Viscount Peel being in the chair.

After stating that if he might be accused of being pro-Assyrian at least that accusation could not proceed from the imputation of his ignorance of the Arab and the Kurd, the lecturer sketched the rise and fall of the Assyrian State, showing how its capital moved further and further north, until, at the outbreak of the War, the Assyrians were found in the Hakiari Mountains, owing allegiance, it was true, to the Ottoman Empire, but in reality enjoying much independence. At the beginning of the War, the Assyrians, who were Christians, some Nestorians and others Chaldeans, who recognised the Pope of Rome, were urged by the Russians to join the Allies. Upon the retreat of the Russians from Kurdistan, the Assyrians found themselves stranded, and had to fight their way through to join up with the British. But they accomplished notable work in harassing the Turk throughout the War.

Later, a refugee camp was formed at Bakuba for the refugees. During the Arab rebellion the Assyrians remained loyal to the British. The following year the Assyrian levies were formed, and have proved a great success. Commanded by British officers, these levies were splendid fighting material; their record was admittedly smudged this year at Kirkuk, but in that matter there was something to be said for them.

Major Bentinck outlined the invasion of the Turks last September, and declared that there was no question what was and what was not British mandated territory. Owing to that raid, the Assyrians, who had filtered back to their homelands, lost all their possessions. The question arose: What to do with them? These Assyrians were said to have done little for themselves, but of one thing the lecturer was certain—they had done much for us. The offer of living on the Mosul plains amounted to little, for it meant—fever, fever, fever. The idea of resettling them elsewhere, say in Canada or in Australia, was equally uncommendable. All that they wanted was their hills, their valleys, their rocks.

Subsequently, Sir Charles Yate, Sir Edgar Wigram and the Rev. Harold Buxton spoke on behalf of the Assyrian cause. On the frontier question, the second speaker pointed out that the tendency to make boundaries of rivers was a wrong one, for tribes dwelt on both sides of a river—the true barriers were the mountain ranges.

Viscount Peel suggested that such causes as the Assyrian cause might unfortunately get lost among the larger issues of the Great War. He hoped, however, that the League of Nations Commission to delimit Iraq's northern frontier would be able to draw the boundary so as to provide for these homeless Assyrians.

The engagement is announced between Captain H. R. C. Meade, I.A., Survey of India, son of Colonel J. W. B. Meade, Indian Army (retired), and Joan, daughter of Sir John Kerr, Governor of Assam, and of Lady Kerr.

The Greek Archbishop in London, Mgr. Germanos, has been appointed a Commander of the Order of the Saviour in recognition of his services to his country.

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Near East Bookshelf.

A MEDIÆVAL HINDU MYSTIC.

"THE WORD OF LALLA THE PROPHETESS." By Sir Richard Temple, Bart. (Cambridge University Press. 16s. net.)

Five and a-half centuries ago a *Yogini*, or female mendicant devotee, wandered about Kashmir in rags, singing and dancing in ecstasy to the glory of the one Supreme God whom she called Shiva. Five and a-half centuries later what she sang is still so alive that every Hindu or Mussulman in that country to-day makes use of her sayings in his everyday conversation.

Some four years ago Sir George Grierson and Dr. L. D. Barnett produced for the Royal Asiatic Society a learned, and, for scholars, definitive, edition of her hymns. But Sir Richard Temple, the learned founder and editor of *The Indian Antiquary*, felt that, if the ordinary reading public were to be given an opportunity of knowing something of the history, meaning and development of Hinduism, no better medium could be found than in these old songs which are still new, and which are "a picture of the actual hopes and fears of the common folk." It was necessary, however, that they should be presented in such a way that they would reach the public whom Sir Richard Temple desired to interest.

This was a far more difficult task than that undertaken by the former editors, and we can only say that it has been carried through with triumphant success. Sir Richard has, of course, given us a rendering of the hymns, if we may call them so, which is at the same time scholarly and indicative of the manner of the originals. To this he has added full notes which bring out the meaning of the often cryptic and symbolical nature of the references and of the underlying thoughts. But he has not rested there. For his purposes it was necessary to show how Lalla's work fitted in with contemporary Hindu philosophy and practice, what were the developments that, through the centuries, had led to these contemporary ideas, and how further evolution has guided Hindu thought up to the present day. He has done this, and done it extraordinarily well, in the incredibly short space of not quite 100 pages. It is not too much to say that this short treatise is the most important exposition of Hinduism so far addressed to the ordinary reader. Although details are not shirked, the writer never loses his thread, and his own deep scholarship enables him to avoid the fatal technicalities which are so often an insuperable stumbling-block to the non-specialist. In the end the reader has a definite conception of the curiously eclectic group of philosophies which are known as Hinduism, and some understanding of how, in spite of stifling ritual and sacerdotalism, Hinduism has remained the living influence it is to-day.

We have thought it right to devote most of our space to calling attention to this exposition, which, in our opinion, deserves to be read and studied by every intelligent person who feels that he should know something of one of the most important religions of the world. Lalla's hymns are, however, well worth study for their own sake. They are curiously reminiscent of our own mystical poets. The conception of the oneness of the universe and of all its components with God is ever present. Take the following :—

Lord, myself not always have I known;
Nay, nor any other self than mine.
Care for this vile body have I shown,
Mortified by me to make me Thine.

Lord, that I am Thou I did not know,
Nor that Thou art I, that One be twain.
"Who am I?" is doubt of doubts, and so
"Who art Thou?" shall lead to birth again.

Shiv or Keshav, Lotus-Lord or Jin;
These be names. Yet takest Thou from me
All the ill that is my World within;
He be Thou, or He or He or He.

This short extract will also give some idea of the quality of the rendering.

C. S.-W.

STUDIES IN HINDUISM.

"THE MAKING OF MODERN INDIA." By Nicol MacNicol, D.Litt. (Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 7s. 6d. net.)

This is an interesting book with a rather misleading name. It is not a formal history, like "The Making of England," and in fact it does not mention some of the most important formative tendencies of the recent past; nor does it deal with India as a whole, the Moslem question, among others, being ignored. It is a collection of studies, most of them reprinted from periodicals, which, taken together, constitute a description of the present state of Hindu thought and feeling, especially as affected by Christian teaching and ideals. As such it is well worth reading. The writer has realised both the strong points of Hinduism and its many weaknesses, and he succeeds in holding a just balance between the two, while his illustrations from Indian poetry in particular are both enlightening and stimulating.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Early History of India: From 600 B.C. to the Muhammadan Conquest, including the Invasion of Alexander the Great." By Vincent A. Smith. Fourth Edition. Revised by S. M. Edwardes, C.S.I., C.V.O. (London: Humphrey Milford. 16s. net.)

"Tibet Past and Present." By Sir Charles Bell, K.C.I.E., C.M.G. (London: Humphrey Milford. 24s. net.)

"Tales of King Solomon." By St. John D. Seymour. (London: Humphrey Milford. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Wit and Wisdom of India." By Pandit Shyama Shankar, M.A. With an Introduction by Francis Henry Skrine, F.R.H.S., I.C.S. (retd.). Illustrated. (London: Geo. Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"The Shahnama of Firdausi." Done into English by Arthur George Warner, M.A., and Edmond Warner, B.A. Vol. IX. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner, and Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"They Make a Desert." By Francesco Nitti. Translated from the Italian by F. Brittain. (London: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"The Shifting Sands of Algeria." By Cherry Kearton. With 79 Photographs. (London: Arrowsmith, Ltd. 25s. net.)

"The Vast Sudan." By A. Radclyffe Dugmore. With Forty-five Illustrations and a Map. (London: J. W. Arrowsmith (London), Ltd. 21s. net.)

"Modern and Contemporary Czech Art." By Antonin Matejcek and Zdenek Wirth. With 203 full-page illustrations. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 21s. net.)

"The Life of Lord Wolseley." By Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice and Sir George Arthur. With a foreword by General Sir Reginald Wingate, G.C.B. (London: Wm. Heinemann, Ltd. 25s. net.)

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THE GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE.

The annual "Report and Accounts" of the Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum was published last week. It contains the address delivered by the late General Sir Lee Stack when, as President of the College, he opened the Kitchener Memorial School of Medicine last February.

General Sir Reginald Wingate, Chairman of the Committee of the College, in a prefatory note to the Report, refers to the murder of Sir Lee Stack. "By this cruel murder," he says, "the College has lost an exceptionally able and sympathetic President, who never failed to take the keenest interest in its many and varied activities, and whose untimely death is bitterly deplored and deeply mourned by the inhabitants of the Sudan, as well as by the students of the College and their parents and relatives—and last but not least is he mourned by every member of the Governing Body of the Gordon Memorial College Fund.

"We have had the fullest opportunities of appreciating Sir Lee Stack's sterling administrative qualities, business capacity, and sympathetic treatment of the various matters dealt with by this Committee; and in expressing our abhorrence of the dastardly crime which has deprived us of our President's invaluable services, I am sure you will all desire to unite with me in conveying to his widow and daughter our deepest condolences in their overwhelming sorrow and our heartfelt sympathy in the cruel loss which has fallen upon them, upon our country, upon the Sudan, and upon this Committee, of which he was so distinguished and esteemed a member."

Sir Reginald Wingate also referred with regret to the death of Mr. F. G. Van de Linde, hon. secretary of the Gordon Memorial College Fund since 1919.

"It is most satisfactory to note," continued General Wingate, "that in spite of political unrest and disorders in Egypt (of which there has been a certain repercussion in the Sudan) the work of real government and of true development, of which the Gordon College has hitherto been an outstanding example, goes steadily forward. I am informed by the Principal of the College that, so far as he knows, three old graduates only have become members of the political organisation known as the White Flag Society, which apparently owes its inception to outside propaganda.

"The fact that the College is gradually being brought into closer touch with other parts of Africa and that interest in its methods and activities is being displayed by the authorities in Kenya, Uganda, and Nigeria, is a favourable indication that there is a spirit abroad, within British spheres of influence in Africa, for organising and co-ordinating a system of education for the native, on gradually progressive lines, adapted to the immediate requirements of the respective localities, and I venture to think the illustrious founder of the Gordon College would have been proud could he have lived to see that the seed sown in the ruins of Khartoum in 1898 was gradually spreading, a quarter of a century later, throughout the British African Colonies and Protectorates."

The auditors' report on the accounts, says Sir Reginald Wingate, shows that the financial situation is generally satisfactory.

In his report, the Principal, Mr. John W. Crowfoot, deals fully with the educational and research sides of the College. He refers to the changes made on the education side, *e.g.*, the transfer of all instruction in iron working from the College workshops to Atbara, and the retrenchment of one class each in the Kadis' and Engineers' Sections. The results obtained from the bacteriological, chemical, geological, archæological, and natural history sections appear to be very satisfactory.

AIRSHIP BASE IN INDIA.

Group Captain P. F. M. Fellowes, the Director of Airship Development, Flight-Lieutenant S. Nixon, also of the airship branch, and Mr. Dale, of the Building and Works Department of the Air Ministry, left last Friday for India to join the Director of Civil Aviation there in the conferences on a suitable airship base in India.

CONSULAR APPOINTMENTS.

The following Consular appointments are notified in the *London Gazette*:—

Mr. Douglas Young, Vice-Consul at Sofia.

Mr. Leonard Henry Hurst, Consul at Adana.

Mr. Stanley Rupert Jordan, Vice-Consul at Port Said.

Mr. Robert Henry Clive, C.M.G., Consul-General for the Dominions of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan of Morocco, to reside at Tangier.

Mr. George Percy Churchill, Consul-General for the State of Algeria, to reside at Algiers.

Mr. Bernard Joseph Gilliat-Smith, Consul at Tiflis.

Mr. Cecil John Edmonds, Vice-Consul at Bitlis.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London, W.C.2,
Monday Morning.

Sudan Trade Expansion.

The statistics of the trade of the Sudan for the first nine months of this year are now available, and make very interesting reading. The value of the imports was £E3,875,002, an increase of £E706,859 on the figures for the corresponding period of 1923, or 22.3 per cent., while that of the exports was £E2,887,485, an increase of £E782,123, or 37.1 per cent. The value of the total trade was £E6,941,567, as compared with £E5,404,736 in 1923, there being thus an increase of £E1,536,831. Great Britain is second in the list of countries from which the Sudan draws its imports with £E1,274,404, or 32.9 per cent., and first in the list of countries exporting from the Sudan with £E1,904,936, or 66 per cent. As regards the figures for the import trade, it has, however, to be borne in mind that the figures for Great Britain represent direct imports only, and that in reality the figures are much more substantial than would appear. The Sudan still has a substantial adverse trade balance, and it would be surprising if this were not so in view of the great work of development now in progress, but it is tending to disappear, and when the new cotton areas begin to yield their harvest the trade figures of the Sudan will begin to make a very different showing.

The Passing Year.

I do not suppose anyone will see the year go out with any feelings of regret. It has, in short, been a milestone on the painful road of reconstruction, and that is perhaps the most that can be said for it. It was hoped a year ago that the present year would see a very general revival of trade, but while the fullest anticipations in this respect have not been fulfilled, recent months have seen a notable improvement in many respects, and in general the world situation has so far altered that it is possible to look forward to 1925 with feelings of distinct optimism. How far they will be gratified must remain to be seen, but this much, at any rate, can be said—that the present year has seen the removal of more than one of the most serious obstacles in the way of the development of world trade. So long as there was no settlement with Germany a general commercial revival was out of the question. The settlement has been followed by a distinct development of buying for the Continent, one effect of which (and this had long been foreseen as an inevitable consequence of the return of Germany to the world's markets) has been to raise prices here. It is curious that following the loan we should have to pay more for clothes and other necessaries, but it is an inconvenience of a temporary character with which people will put up for the sake of the more general gain in expanding markets. The settlement and other favourable factors have had their effect in markets outside the Continent, and India and the Near East have been taking goods much more freely in recent months, and the cotton trade, which is first to feel the effects of rising trade, is now beginning to develop, and throughout Lancashire the roll of unemployed has sensibly diminished. These are straws which show the way the wind is blowing and within another twelve months it may be hoped that many other trades will have begun to enjoy the warming gleams of rising trade.

The Prospects.

For Great Britain it must be admitted that the New Year in general will open under much more favourable auspices. The Empire Exhibition is wisely being continued for another year, and this time, with a Government in power whose policy in particular is to concentrate on the development of Imperial trade, it may be anticipated that the results will be more commensurate with anticipations. So far as one knows, all the parts of the Empire represented last time will again be present, while already there are two newcomers—a self-evident tribute to the recognition of the value of the Exhibition as a medium for promoting inter-Imperial commerce. Among the negative acts of the late Government was the removal of certain preferences on dried fruits, etc., and these are to be restored in due course. I do not think that they are likely to have any adverse effect on Near Eastern countries, for the consumption of dried fruits is constantly on the increase, but their value as opening up new areas of employment should be great.

The Smyrna Fire Decision.

Few commercial cases have been followed more intently than that fought by the American Tobacco Co., Inc., to recover insurance in respect of goods destroyed in the Smyrna fire, for on it depended the hopes of compensation on the part of many other companies and individuals. Mr. Justice Rowlatt, whose judgment is given *in extenso* on another page, found for the defendants, holding that the Smyrna fire was due to incendiarism following the Turkish occupation of the town in September, 1922. It is now left to traders to press their claims for compensation on the Government, but in the circumstances it cannot be maintained that there can be any great prospect of hope in this direction.

COMMENTATOR.

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PERSIA AS A TRADE CENTRE.

The Principal Markets.

(*From a Correspondent.*)

In ancient times the inhabitants of Iran, Medes, Persians, and Parthians, were nomads, husbandmen, and warriors, and trade was not popular; but after they came into close contact with the Greeks, Armenians, and Jews, trade began to develop, and now the average Persian merchant, though his enterprise does not come up to that of the above-named nationalities, is a prosperous person, and trade, especially at the towns, is flourishing. But from a European point of view, the Persian merchant is difficult to deal with, owing to the fact that, though he buys goods readily, he meets his liabilities only with great delay. This makes it necessary to grant long credits, and this is perhaps the reason why relatively few European firms do direct business with Persia, and the foreign trade of Persia is to a great part in the hands of Armenians, and Persian merchants have their agents in only a few foreign towns, such as Astrakhan, Baku, Tiflis, Constantinople, Cairo, Baghdad, Bombay, and other Eastern centres, whereas the Armenians invade nearly all the larger towns of Europe and a great many Oriental ones.

In the northern provinces of Persia the trade is more developed than in the South. The cause is that the population is more numerous and the country more productive; this accounts also for the fact that the towns in the north are larger and the traffic and exchange of goods with the adjoining foreign countries more lively. A great many Armenians, and some Greek, Russian, and Jewish firms participate in the import and export trade, whereas in the southern provinces Parsees, Indian, and some leading Persian firms transact foreign business, leaving the local trade entirely in the hands of the natives.

Tabriz, the capital of the province of Azarbaijan, is one of the principal trading centres of Persia. The province is the most fertile and productive in the country, and the exchange of goods with Russia and other foreign countries carried on by way of Tiflis, where there has always been a large Persian colony, and Batoum, has been a considerable one, and the construction of the Tiflis-Tabriz Railway promised the development of this trade still further; but since the Russian revolution the trade with Russia has, of course, suffered very severely. Another important commercial road is that from Tabriz via Khoi, Bayazid, Erzeroum, and Trebizond to the European ports. Though it is a good deal longer and considerably more difficult, it is by far the cheaper, and large quantities of goods from and to Europe are forwarded by this road in preference to the Caucassian one. With the ports of the Caspian Sea and Russia Tabriz trades by the road of Ardabil and Astara, and with Turkey, except by the mentioned Trebizond road, by one via Salmas and Van. The local trade of Tabriz extends over all the north-western part of the province of Azarbaijan and Kurdistan.

Resht, the capital of the province of Gilan, with its port of Enzeli, is a very important commercial town and a place of transit between Russia and the Western European countries (via Baku-Batum) on the one side and Central Persia on the other. The trade was greatly developed by the construction of the causeways from Enzeli to Resht, Kasvin, Teheran, and Hamadan, which enable the transport of heavy goods not only by caravan loads, but also by waggons and carts; still, the camel caravans remain the cheaper means of transport. The local trade of Resht is considerable and extends over the eastern half of the province of Gilan, with its low lands and mountain districts, while the trade of the western part of the province inclines more to the port of Astara.

Langerud is also a lively little commercial town on the Caspian shore, and its local trade extends as far as the western part of the province of Mazanderan and the district of Dilman. Kasvin being the centre of a well-populated, fertile track of land, has a considerable local trade, and is also a centre for the exchange of transit goods between Teheran, Isfahan, and Hamadan on the one side and Resht-Enzeli and foreign countries on the other.

Teheran, the capital, situated in a fertile and well-populated tract of land, possesses the largest local trade of the country, which extends also to the towns of Kom and Kashan, and its trade with foreign countries via Kasvin-Resht-Enzeli, Barferush-Mashadisar, Isfahan-Shiraz-Bushire, Hamadan-Kermanshah-Baghdad and Meshed-Herat, is certainly the most developed in Persia. In fact, Teheran is the most important commercial town.

Barferush, with its port of Mashadisar, is the largest commercial town in the province of Mazanderan. Before the construction of the Enzeli-Teheran causeway part of the goods from and to Teheran and the foreign countries used to be transported via Firuzkuh and Barferush, but the more convenient port of Enzeli has now drawn all the Teheran traffic from Barferush.

Bandar-i-Gaz is the port of Asterabad, whence the trade with the Turkoman tribes is transacted by way of the port of Ak-Kal'eh. The local commerce extends as far as the town of Ashraf in the west, Bujnurd in the east, and Shahrud, Damghan, and Sabzavar in the south.

Meshed is the most important commercial town of Eastern Persia. It has direct caravan communication via Kutchan and Askabad, and from there by railway with the ports of the Caspian Sea, Merv, Bukhara, and Turkestan, and via Herat with Afghanistan. There is also caravan communication between Meshed, Kerman, Sistan, and Bunder-Abbas on the Persian Gulf, and the local trade is just as extensive.

Since the Russian revolution the trade of Northern Persia has been very adversely influenced,

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and the commercial traffic of Northern and Central Persia has had to be entirely directed to the roads of Hamadan-Baghdad and Teheran-Isfahan-Bushire. The Kasvin-Hamadan causeway, constructed by the Russians before the war, has contributed greatly to the easy transport of goods, as the old carriage road from Teheran via Kom and Sultanabad is not nearly so convenient; still the ancient road from Teheran via Nobaran to Hamadan, notwithstanding its mountainous character, is shorter and cheaper for the transport of goods, and is used also by many caravans. Of lesser importance are the two caravan roads from Hamadan to Isfahan, one over the mountains, the other rounding them from the north-east. The caravan road from Hamadan to Tabriz is only little frequented. The same can be said about the road to Zindjan.

Isfahan has the largest trade of Central Persia, being surrounded by a great number of prosperous villages, and some small towns of the neighbouring districts are dependent on the commerce of it. Shiraz is in about the same position as Isfahan, but not nearly of such importance.

Bushire, on the Persian Gulf, is the principal port of Southern Persia, and has a considerable local trade with Persian Arabistan and the districts of Dashtistan, Tangsir, and Sarhad; it is a pity that the sea is so shallow at the harbour, so that the ships have to anchor about a mile off the shore. The passes from the low land up to the Shiraz plain on the road to Teheran are very difficult, so that heavier loads cannot be transported by this way.

Tazd has direct commercial traffic with the Persian Gulf and India by the ports of Bunder-Abbas and Lingeh, and its local trade comprises the whole country around, but, owing to the small population and the limted area of cultivated land, the trade is not very prosperous. Bunder-Abbas, on the Persian Gulf, the port of the province of Kerman, has a limited local trade, as the country around is only poorly populated.

Kerman is a populous town, and is surrounded by well-cultivated land. Its trade is considerable, and extends even as far as Meshed and Sistan in the north, Quetta and Nushki in the east, and the districts of Rafsidjan and Anar in the west. The foreign trade of Kerman is limited to India, especially Bombay, with which town the exchange of goods is very active. On the whole Persian foreign trade is not large Before the war Northern Persia exported on the average goods of the value of about £2,500,000 and Southern Persia of £1,500,000; at the same time Northern Persia imported goods of the value of about £5,000,000 and Southern Persia of £2,500,000, the imports thus exceeding the exports by about £3,500,000, or nearly 50 per cent.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-$\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	258-260
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	313-316
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	24.29-24.31
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.6$\frac{3}{32}$-$\frac{5}{32}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	94.45-94.55
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	915-925
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	340-348,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.6$\frac{3}{32}$-$\frac{5}{32}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	865-875
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.71-4.71¼
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	87.15-87.25
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	155¼-155½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	110-110.10
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	635-645
Teheran	Krans to £	50	39½
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	332-335,000
Warsaw	Zloty to £	25.22½	24.40-24.60

TURKISH UNIFIED DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders notify British holders of bonds of the Four per Cent. Turkish Unified Converted debt, who have deposited coupons Nos. 23 to 33 with the object of prosecuting the claim for recovery from Germany. at the pre-war rate of exchange, of the sums collected on behalf of the bondholders during the war and deposited in German banks by the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt (which at the time consisted of a German, Austro-Hungarian, and Ottoman member only), that the claim of the French holders in respect of these coupons, brought by their representatives in Paris, has been argued before the Franco-German Mixed Arbitral Tribunal constituted by the Treaty of Versailles, and that judgment has been given entirely rejecting the claim. This judgment is mainly based on the ground that the transfer to Germany of the funds, amounting to some £7,500,000, was a transaction effected by the Debt Council in the temporary employment of revenues authorised by the Decree of Mouharrem pending distribution: that the legal right to repayment from the Kerman banks was vested in that Council alone and not in the bondholders; that the Debt Council not being a subject of or domiciled in the territory of any of the Allied Powers is not a claimant within the meaning of the Treaty of Versailles whose claim it is competent for the Arbitral Tribunal to deal with; and that the bondholders themselves, or their representatives, have no *locus standi* to prosecute before the Tribunal a claim to money which in a legal sense was vested in the Debt Council alone. In these circumstances the Council of Foreign Bondholders are undecided whether or not to proceed before the Anglo-German Tribunal.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

A Reuter message from Athens states that the Government has decided to put in force the international tariff rate for goods traffic on the line between Salonika and Ghevgheli.

The Bengal and North-Western Railway Company recommends a final dividend of 5 per cent., together with a bonus of 2 per cent., on the ordinary stock, making 13 per cent. per annum. The dividend and bonus will be paid, less tax at 2s. 5d., on February 2.

A registration of 3,013 passenger cars, 260 trucks, and 161 motor cycles is estimated for Palestine and Syria (says an American report). Since the military occupation in Palestine, the demand for automobiles has been steadily growing, so that the army stocks of trucks and automobiles has not only been absorbed but a larger number of new passenger cars have been imported in addition.

The latest information on every phase of industrial and Agricultural development in Canada is procurable from the Bureau of Canadian Information of the Canadian Pacific Railway, 62-65, Charing Cross, London, S.W. 1. The reference library of the Bureau contains complete data on the natural resources, climate, labour, transportation, openings, etc., in Canada. Private individuals and commercial undertakings are invited to make use of it. Inquiries by post receive prompt attention

The directors of the Constantinople Telephone Company announce that although the business of the company has continued to develop, in spite of the depression in trade in Constantinople, they much regret that, mainly owing to the depreciation in Turkish exchange, it has been found necessary to defer the payment of the coupons on the 6 per cent. Obligations and 6 per cent. Certificates due January 1 next. The holders of Obligations and Certificates will be invited to attend a meeting as soon as possible, at which the position of the company will be reported, and an arrangement be proposed for dealing with the situation pending such an improvement in conditions as will permit interest payments to be resumed.

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THE SMYRNA FIRE.

Insurance Offices Not Liable.

Mr. Justice Rowlatt, in the Commercial Court on December 19, gave judgment for defendants in the action brought by the American Tobacco Company, Inc., against the Guardian Assurance Company in respect of insured goods destroyed, on the ground that the Smyrna fire was due to incendiarism following the Turkish occupation of the town in September, 1922. The plaintiffs claimed £168,245 4s. 1d. under a policy of fire insurance. The defendants, by an insurance policy dated June 24, 1922, insured certain tobacco at Smyrna against destruction by fire between May 1, 1922, and May 1, 1923. The goods were lost in a fire on September 13, 1922, when almost the whole town was destroyed. The plaintiffs claimed under the policy, but defendants refused to pay, and this action was brought.

Various defences were put in, but the main question raised was whether the fire was accidental.

Mr. Justice Rowlatt, in delivering judgment, said that in 1919 the Greek Army occupied Smyrna and drove out the Turks, who withdrew into the interior. A Turkish Nationalist Government was formed, and in August, 1922, their army inflicted a crushing defeat on the Greek forces. The Greek Army was expelled from Asia Minor; it was disorganised and retreated on Smyrna in a condition which was described as pitiable. On the retreat it burnt villages and laid waste the country. On September 9 the head of the Turkish Army entered Smyrna; there was no fighting in connection with that entry, and possession was taken in a disciplined way. On September 10 the main body of the Turkish Army arrived. Smyrna had a mixed population of Greeks, Armenians, and Turks, and between them there was bitter animosity arising from race, religious, and economic reasons. The Turks were naturally exultant. On occupying the city they proclaimed martial law and terminated the authority of the existing police and revived the Turkish police who had been in existence before the Greek occupation. Military patrols were sent out, but it was clear that the policing of the Armenian quarter failed entirely. Disorderly groups began to loot and commit outrages: doors were broken open and goods were scattered outside, and corpses were to be seen lying in the streets. The state of things got steadily worse.

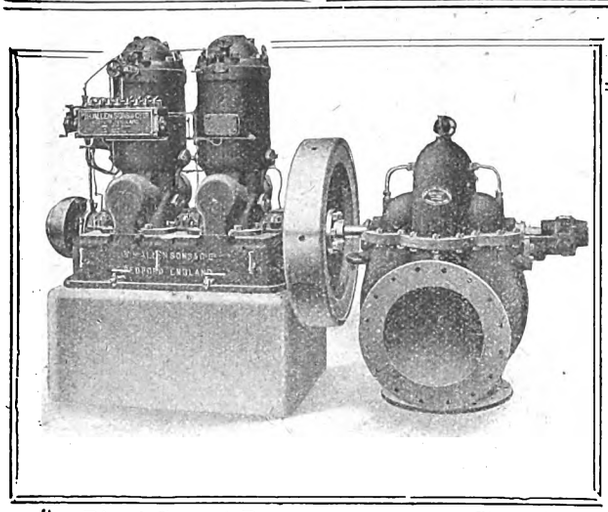
It was clear that a reign of terror was established in the Armenian quarter; the inhabitants fled from the place in terror and left the quarter in the hands of unruly and ruthless people. The buildings of the city were largely composed of wood and were highly inflammable; Smyrna has a dry summer, and at this time there had been no rain to speak of for five months. So much for the general situation.

It was clear that the great fire of September 13 could not be attributed to the Turkish military authorities officially, but the evidence was most strongly in favour of incendiarism by individuals.

His Lordship continued: There was evidence of other fires independent of one another, and little fires kept springing up behind the firemen. It was urged that some of the independent fires might have been caused by sparks from houses already burning; it might be so in some cases; but there was actual evidence of incendiarism, and he drew the inference that the fire arose and prevailed owing to the Armenian quarter's being infested by bands of looters, to whose recklessness or ruthlessness the fire was due. Those disorderly people were the only people in the quarter at the time; and it was all an incident of the Turkish entry which led to a dissolution of the existing police force and insufficient measures taken to replace it.

Applying the exceptions clause to this state of facts, he ruled out the words "riot" and "civil commotion." There was widespread outrage by a number of separate groups of individuals, but there was nothing that could be described as a riot or civil commotion. But the remaining words of the exception were of the widest possible kind. The words "in connexion with" implied a causal connexion and did not merely mean "during." But causation was not simple but manifold; and looking at the facts from a business point of view it was clear that the military occupation gave an opportunity for looting and outrage, and as the fire arose out of the looting it could not be said that it was not caused by, contributed to, or connected with the military occupation. In both cases, therefore, there must be judgment for the defendants, with costs.

[The decision also covered an action against the Alliance Assurance Company.]



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THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Firm.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended December 11 state :—

Since our last report the Futures market has shown unabated firmness, especially for Sakellaridis, and prices all round have secured substantial advances; the net changes on the week are :—Sakellaridis : $5.35 up for January, $5.30 up for March, $5.55 up for May, $2.85 up for November, 1925; Ashmouni : $1.65 up for December, $1.85 up for February, $2.05 up for April, $1.15 up for October, 1925. The market has this week derived its strength mainly from the persistent good demand from abroad; all consuming centres have been buying heavily, both Sakel and Uppers, and the high levels touched do not appear to influence buyers for the time being. Events so far this season have been in striking contradiction to those of the last two years, as, despite the fact that Sakels are now $22.45 over Uppers and the latter $7.52 over American, both varieties are eagerly sought after, whereas not so very long back spinners were reluctant to buy even at about the prices of American cotton. Another reason for the strength of the Sakel market is that hedging operations have this year been very small, owing to the high premiums ruling for spot cotton, a fact which has also eliminated the possibility of tenders against Futures contracts. Ashmouni contracts have been rather actively dealt in this week, mainly straddle reversing operations and some commercial buying; prices have risen considerably, and the difference with New York has widened sharply. It seems that the high level of Sakel prices is influencing Uppers, and in view of the fact that high prices have not in the least weakened the demand, we shall not be surprised to see the difference with American still further increased. We consider that the statistical position of Sakel is strong, whilst that of Uppers is not unsatisfactory. Exports continue on almost the same scale as last year, and all indications are in favour of heavy figures during the coming weeks. Receipts amount to 350,926 kantars, against exports 303,786 kantars; the stock stands at 1,960,434 kantars.

Spot.—We have had a busy week at Minet el Bassal, and there has been a good demand from spinners. Sales amount to about 32,700 bales, of which we estimate 17,000 bales Sakel, 10,000 bales Uppers, 4,500 bales Zagora, 300 bales Brown, 600 bales Pilion, and 300 bales White. A feature of the week's trading has been the increasing interest shown by spinners in Upper Egypts and Zagora, the trade being probably attracted to these varieties owing to their very wide difference with Sakellaridis.

Sakellaridis.—There has been business in all qualities, and low grades have received more attention than for some time past, due, no doubt, to the considerable discounts at which they can be bought below the present high level of contracts and their comparative cheapness as against medium and good grades. Spot parities are steady at about last week's rates for Fully Good Fair and above, but below Fully Good Fair they have eased somewhat, especially Fair and Fully Fair.

Uppers,—A good business has been done in all qualities. Spot premiums are steady at last week's rates.

Zagora.—Has been in good request, especially the higher grades. Spot premiums are unchanged, but the grades above Fully Good Fair are inclined to stiffen.

Pilion.—A fair business has been done. Spot premiums are markedly easier than last week.

Brown—Has met with a moderate demand, and prices of spot against contracts are generally cheaper than last week.

White.—A fair business has been done. Spot premiums are generally easier than last week.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Rise in Egyptian Cotton.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended December 17 :—

Egyptian Spot.—The upward movement in Egyptian cotton has continued during the past week, and the highest point recorded so far this season was reached on Saturday last, the 13th inst., when the official quotation for Fully Good Fair Sakel touched 30.50d. per lb.

During the past few days, however, the futures markets, both here and in Alexandria, have displayed a somewhat uncertain tone, and the ensuing fluctuations, often of some violence, have been reflected more or less in our spot prices. Nevertheless, with the sole exception of Fair Sakellaridis, we close the week with a further series of very substantial gains, particularly in the case of the finer grades. The feature of the week has been the strength of Uppers. Until quite recently this cotton has been but little affected by the phenomenal rise in the Sakel contract, and it was considered in many quarters that there was little prospect of an immediate appreciation, owing to the premium at which it stood (and had stood for some time) over American. A difference of over 500 points between Fully Good Fair Uppers and December American was thought to be already

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more than enough. However, with the difference between Fully Good Fair Uppers and December Egyptian reaching one thousand and fifty points, as it did on the 12th inst., it became clear that the balance needed adjustment in the opposite direction. Since then a marked stiffening has occurred in the basis of all offers for Upper Egyptian from Alexandria, and the price of spot Uppers on this market has been raised over 1½d. per lb. After such a period of inaction, this sudden rise has come as a most unwelcome surprise to spinners, who had been relying on this growth to help them out, now that the price of Sakellaridis has risen to such a height that they are being forced to reduce their Sakel mixings to the utmost possible extent. To our mind, there is still room for further appreciation in the current price of Uppers, and the wise spinner will be the one who does not delay too long before covering at least a proportion of his probable requirements. With Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis at 30.00d., it is not surprising that the inquiry for this cotton, and particularly for the more expensive qualities, should have quietened down. No business over 28.00d. has been reported during the week, and the bulk of the small demand has been for the Strictly Good Fair quality. The inferior grades (Fair and below) are entirely neglected, and the quotation for Fair Sakel even shows a slight reduction on the week.

Pilion has been in good request, but prices are extremely irregular, and it is impossible to quote any hard-and-fast basis on which to work. White and Brown cottons have been the subject of a few isolated inquiries, but the business passing is insignificant. Sudan cotton has been neglected. A considerable amount of cotton has recently arrived here, and the selection of both Sakel and Uppers should now begin to show some improvement. The Liverpool stock shows an increase over last week's figures of some ten thousand bales. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 12th inst. were returned as 11,500 bales. C.i.f. business has shown some improvement. Estimated sales 1,500 bales Egyptian and 10 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakellaridis are advanced 155 points (Fair exceptionally 10 points lower). Uppers are advanced from 125 points for Fair, to 185 points for Extra Fine. Brown is advanced 115 for Fair, to 225 points for Extra Fine. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis 29.60d.

Egyptian Futures.—There has been little if any falling off in the interest latterly shown in this market, and the majority of sessions under review have again been marked by excited and heavy trading. The outstanding feature of the week has been furnished by the strength of the Sakel options in Alexandria, and it would appear from the action of their market that the "long" interests are, at the moment, having matters pretty much their own way. . . . Pure Sakel is at a considerable premium, and on this account cannot be placed against the contract except at a considerable basic loss. Up to the end of last week we witnessed a heavy and sustained advance, mainly under the influence of the overseas market, and in a slightly lesser degree to trade calling and the covering of a large short account. Fresh high levels for the season were witnessed during Saturday's session, when the January position touched 28.85, but more recently trading has revealed a slightly easier undertone, and after erratic fluctuations, which have been shared by the Alexandria market, we close about one penny off the top, price alterations on the week showing an advance of 135 to 160 points for near and 95 to 112 points for more distant positions. Rather more interest has been shown in the new contracts (November, 1925), principally by straddlers, and the Sakel option has registered an advance of 115 points and the Upper 75 points. The present period of the season generally witnesses a quiet spell, as far as the trade are concerned, and, apart from this, the erratic movements in our market must have made matters still more difficult, as far as the producer of fine counts is concerned, for the booking of fresh business, the demand for both spot and forward cotton (Sakel) has only been on a limited scale, but the coarser qualities (and these do not influence our contract to any extent) have met a large demand. Spinners' takings continue on quite a heavy scale, last week over 11,000 bales going forward to the mills. Whilst we consider that the probability is for still higher prices, the position appears too dangerous to advise commitments.

The Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company announces a dividend on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent. for the year ended June 30, 1924, which will be paid, less tax at rate of 4s. 6d. in the £, at the P. and O. Banking Corporation, London, and at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Alexandria. Holders of warrants to bearer are requested to present coupon No. 22.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture states that the report that the Egyptian Government had decided to take all seed for sowing the next crop from the Damanhour ginneries is incorrect. The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, as it has always done, is taking the usual precautions to ensure that the seed purchased for distribution to the small cultivators is of good quality. All seed purchased by the Ministry up to date is from Gharbieh and Dakahlia provinces.

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GROWTH OF SYRIAN LEATHER INDUSTRY.

The growth of the Syrian leather industry is due principally to the fact that during the World War this country was cut off from the rest of the world and the sources from which it usually received most of its leather. Being unable to import leather from foreign markets, local dealers began to establish tanneries of their own, and at present there are twelve tanneries in Syria, located at Beyrout, Damascus, Aleppo, Zahleh, and Mashgara. It has been estimated (says an American Consular report) that 1,000,000 sheep and goat skins and 200,000 cow and horse hides are tanned annually by the Syrian plants.

The leather produced locally cannot compete in quality or workmanship with that imported from France, Germany, England, Italy, or the United States, as uniformity in quality or finish is entirely lacking. The imports from the United States consist chiefly of kid, patent cow sides, cow sides, black and coloured suede, and black box calf. France supplies sole leather, kid, and box calf. Belgium furnishes sole leather and box calf, while Czecho-Slovakia sends box cowhides and box calf and Germany box calf and patent cow hides. The majority of the imports come into the country through Beyrout, the total for this port being 900,000 kilos in 1922 and 600,000 kilos in 1923.

The expansion of the leather industry in Syria depends largely on the correction of the defects now found in it, and the introduction of modern machinery for tanning and finishing. Furthermore, greater care must be taken in slaughtering and flaying the animals and preparing the skins for tanning. A more or less general centralisation or concentration of the industry into the hands of a few large firms is also necessary if progress is to be made. The utter lack of scientific knowledge is also one of the drawbacks in the modernisation of the local tanning industry, and, as with the other obstacles, can only be overcome through a campaign of education. Despite its many defects, however, the Syrian leather industry is of considerable importance. A large portion of the domestic requirements are met through local production, while a certain surplus is also available for export.

INDIA'S TRADE IN OCTOBER.

Increase in Exports.

The trade returns of British India for the month of October showed, as compared with the preceding month, decreases in the values of imports and re-exports, with an increase in exports. The imports of private merchandise totalled Rs.20,84 lakhs, and showed a decrease of Rs.1,98 lakhs, as compared with the preceding month. The value of the exports of Indian produce and manufactures rose from Rs.27,10 lakhs in September to Rs.29,07 lakhs, while re-exports decreased by Rs.54 lakhs to Rs.76 lakhs.

Measured by the statistics of merchandise and treasure, the visible balance of trade was in favour of India to the extent of Rs.1,45 lakhs in October, as compared with an adverse balance of Rs.1,07 lakhs in September and a favourable balance of Rs.93 lakhs a year ago. During the seven months ending October the visible balance of trade in merchandise and treasure was Rs.18,92 lakhs in favour of India, as compared with Rs.33,15 lakhs in the corresponding period of the preceding year. The balance of the remittances of funds in October was minus Rs. 14,00 lakhs.

The share of the United Kingdom in imports fell from 53 per cent. in October, 1923, to 51 per cent. in October, 1924, while in exports it rose slightly, from 31.1 to 31.4 per cent. The shares of Germany, Japan, and the United States in October, 1924, were respectively 7, 7, and 5 per cent. under imports, and 5, 7, and 8 per cent. under exports.

The tonnage of vessels entered into British India and cleared outwards with cargoes from and to foreign countries and British Possessions during October, 1924, amounted respectively to 652,000 and 700,000, as against 510,000 and 644,000 in September and 581,000 and 610,000 a year ago. The tonnage entered into and cleared from British India during the seven months April to October was 3,933,000 and 4,761,000 respectively, as compared with 3,836,000 and 4,516,000 in the same period last year.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

National Bank of Egypt.

Position at October 31, 1924, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes. Banking Department.—Liabilities :—Share capital (300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each), £E2,925,000; reserve fund: statutory reserve, £E1,462,500; special reserve, £E804,375; current, deposit, and other accounts, £E13,846,310; Egyptian Government, £E15,375,118; Sudan Government, £E208,989; Mixed Tribunals, £E1,460,118; bankers' accounts, £E504,597; cheques and bills payable, £E571,697; sundry other accounts, £E993,187 — £E38,151,891. Assets :—Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E20,581,758; sundry securities, £E255,128; advances on merchandise, £E1,816,190; advances on securities, £E2,862,978; advances otherwise secured, £E550,534; sundry other advances, £E890,592; bills of exchange, £E3,322,198; local bills discounted, £E294,384; buildings and furniture, £E278,896; money at call and at short notice, £E1,111,500; bankers' accounts, £E3,420,811; sundry other accounts, £E413,316. Cash :—Notes, £E2,009,547; gold, £E28,708; silver, nickel, etc., £E315,351 — £E2,353,606 — £E38,151,891. Issue Department.—Notes issued, £E39,700,000—£E39,700,000. Gold, £E3,339,576; *British Treasury Bills, £E16,510,424—£E19,850,000. Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E420,576; British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds, £E19,429,424—£E19,850,000—£E39,700,000.

*By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1916.)

The Dacia Romano Petroleum Syndicate, Ltd., announces that the production for November amounted to 350 tons.

M. Bratianu, the Minister of Finance, speaking in the Chamber on December 12 during the debate on the Budget, said that the policy of the Government was in the direction of unification and the normal functioning of the administration, the stabilisation of the financial situation, increase in production, and the valuation of the national resources (says a Reuter message from Bucharest). The Chamber passed the Budget.

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Near East Markets.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government, dated November 25 :—

Gum.

The exports of gum during October were as follows: Via Port Sudan, 27 tons of bleached of the value of £E1,981; 827 tons of hashab, of the value of £E35,710; and 36 tons of talh, of the value of £E885.

Kordofan Province.—4,590 kantars were sold in El Obeid market during October, as against 6,353 kantars during the same month last year. The average price was £E1.049m/ms. per kantar. The 4,590 kantars include 1,798 kantars received from Nahud for sale and exclude 801 kantars already sold at Nahud and sent to El Obeid for resale. The arrivals at El Obeid from Nahud, for checking, were 2,408 kantars, as against 2,733 kantars during the same month last year. The amount sold at Nahud during the month was 2,426 kantars, as against 1,557 kantars during the same month last year. The average price was £E0,896 m/ms. the kantar. No gum was sold at Um Ruaba during October, 1924, or 1923. No gum was sold at Rahad during the month, against 8 kantars during the same month last year.

The Fung Province.—October: 48 tons of gum hashab were exported from the province via Makwar River Siding during the month.

Kassala Province.—October: Talh gum has appeared at Gedaref, and 113 kantars were exported from there during the month.

Cotton.

While Nile Province.—In Geteina district the crops on the east bank have been very poor owing to insufficient rainfall. There has been no rain-grown American cotton for the same reason. That sown as a seluka crop is doing well. American rain-grown cotton in the Maatuk area looks very promising. It is very popular, and applications have already been received from that omodieh for 150 sacks of seed for 1925. Cotton grown in El Dueim as a sagia crop is doing very well.

Red Sea Province.—The rains have done much good, and crops both at Tokar and Khor Arbaat are looking most promising. There is every prospect of a very valuable crop again this year.

Blue Nile Province.—Rain cotton reports are very mixed—heavier rains at the beginning would have suited the cotton better in some cases. A considerable quantity has been planted on rather lightly watered land, and this has been attacked by thrips—other cotton was planted too early on heavy watered land, and has suffered from black arm. The hot period between the end of the rains and the beginning of cooler weather has not suited cotton, but there has been a general improvement since the weather got cooler, and there can be no doubt that there is a lot of very good cotton. On the whole, a better yield than last year is anticipated, and it is hoped at least 40,000 kantars of 315 rottles seed cotton will come into the province markets, for which 30,000 kantars should be from the Blue Nile Province.

Kassala Province.—Cotton picking is in full swing round Mefaza, and labour has been sent there from Gedaref to supplement the shortage. The first market will be held on November 1. The quality of the cotton is not quite as good as was expected, owing to the lack of late rain.

Upper Nile Province.—Following a very dry period during the last fortnight of September, heavy storms occurred in October. Very few of the bolls which formed everywhere in September opened during that month, and the rain does not appear to have damaged the crop. Reports from Renk are on the whole favourable. The crop at Tonga is reported to be bad.

Dongola Province.—Nuri: The cotton crop, 726 feddans, is looking well. The earliest sown has started opening, but picking will not be general for some time yet. Gureir: The cotton crop of 400 feddans is looking very well, and flowering and bolling is satisfactory. Some of the bolls on the earlier sown area have already opened, and a quantity of cotton should be ready for picking in November.

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FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, January 8). (For passenger sailings and dates see advertisement.)

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Holywell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 27).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 31).

British India Line.—S.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 2); s.s. Mantola for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 3).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Harvard for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 31).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S s. Bulgarian for Gibraltar, Piræus, Salonika, Constantinople, and Smyrna (London, January 7).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore, for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza. (Liverpool, December 27.) S.s. Vedamore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza. (Liverpool, January 3.) M.v. Tramore, for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza. (Liverpool, January 31.)

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, January 9); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 10).

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CROP CONDITIONS IN IRAQ.

The following further extracts are taken from the Agricultural Bulletin of Iraq :—

The low-level of the Tigris has continued to affect the cultivation in the Amarah Ma'qa'atas adversely. The "Harfi" rice crop has threshed out very badly, and the "Afli" rice will be below the average. On the Dialah canals an improvement in the water-supply took place towards the end of the month. Rice from this area is reported to be good where sufficient water has been available. The water-supply on all Euphrates canals has remained good, and the rotation as practised throughout the summer appears to have been highly satisfactory. Silt-clearing operations have now started on some of the canals. Maize is reported an average crop from all districts. A fair crop of early sown "Mash" and Sesame has been harvested.

Deliveries of cotton to the British Cotton Growing Association's ginnery up to the end of September amounted to the equivalent of 820 bales of ginned cotton, as against 508 bales for the same period last year. The recovery of the crop from the trying July-August weather has been slow this year, and second pickings are uniformly late. There is every prospect of satisfactory late October pickings. Climatic conditions have favoured the increase of boll-worm where this is present. The fifth generation of this pest hatched out at Rustam between September 9 and 16. The boll-worm population was increased in consequence from 16 per 100 hills to 55 per 100 hills, and the mortality of the pest was also much lower. Careful records of the intensity of the attack have been maintained, and at the end of September it was found that 23 per cent. of bolls were attacked. Many of these, however, are new bolls which would not, in any case, have produced cotton. Up to the end of September the different varieties in the main varietal test had yielded from 1,052 lb. per acre to 1,527 lb. per acre according to variety, whilst the bulk crop of 95 acres had given at the rate of 769 lb. per acre.

Great activity in preparation for winter sowings is being shown in all districts. Wherever possible, land is being irrigated to facilitate ploughings and early sowings of barley for fodder and winter vegetables are already being made. Sowings of "daim" (rain-fed) winter cereals have already commenced in the northern districts.

The July-September exports of wheat from Iraq were 949 tons and of barley 12,487 tons, total 13,436 tons, as compared with 54,815 tons exported during the same period last year. The August-September exports of dates from Iraq were 55,845 tons, valued at Rs. 7,939,757, as compared with 16,210 tons, valued at Rs. 2,318,649 for the corresponding season last year. The July-September exports of wool from Iraq were 11,404 tons as compared with 2,349 tons exported during the corresponding season last year.

Lieut.-General Sir Reginald Pole-Carew, K.C.B., of Antony House, Torpoint, Cornwall, chairman of the Sunja Syndicate, Limited, a director of the West Caucasian Oilfields, Limited, and of the Yarde Kerri Group Tin Mines, Limited, Conservative M.P. for the Bodmin Division, 1910-16, who saw service in the Afghan War, 1879-80, in Egypt, in Burma and South Africa, and as Inspector-General of the Territorial Force during the Great War, who died on September 19, aged 75, left, exclusive of settled property, estate of the gross value of £15,444, with net personalty £14,108.

TENDERS INVITED.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

The Sudan.

Steel Tank.—The Inspector-General of Sudan Irrigation, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of a mild steel tank, dimensions 10 × 10 × 2½ metres, to be used for water, with a small head between the two levels; the plates and the angle frames should be supplied drilled and cut according to the dimensions required, and ready to be erected in the sudds zone. January 15.

Egypt.

Surgical Instruments.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of surgical instruments required for the period of one year from April 1, 1925. January 27.

Binding and Printing Material.—The Superintendent, Government Press, Bulâq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of binding and printing material. Price of conditions of contract: 50 mills. per copy. January 23.

Stationery, etc.—The Director, Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of stationery articles and papers required for the year 1925-1926. February 2.

Printing Paper, etc.—The Superintendent, Government Press, Bulâq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of printing and writing paper, bristol-board, grey-board, and straw-board. January 13.

General Stores.—The Ministry of War invites tenders for the supply of general stores and clothing required by the Frontier Districts Administration for the year 1925-26. The goods required include permanent stores, oils, paints, varnishes, and other consumable stores, and clothing and cloth. Tenders, on the proper form, must reach the Director of Stores, Frontier Districts Administration, Alexandria, not later than noon on January 14, 1925. It should also be noted that samples of permanent stores, oils, paints, etc., should reach the F.D.A. Arsenal ten days before the date fixed for opening tenders. (D.O.T.)

Calico and Sash.—The Surveyor-General of Egypt, Giza (Mudiriya), invites tenders for the supply of calico and sash required for the next financial year, 1925-1926. February 10.

Clothing, etc.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of clothing, equipment, tents, etc., required for the year 1925-1926. January 16.

Candles.—The Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, War Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of two English tons of candles. February 3.

Turkey.

Barbed Wire.—The Commission des achats des chemins de fer d'Anatolie invite tenders for the supply of five tons of galvanised barbed wire. (D.O.T.)

The incoming Christmas mail is reported to have created a post-war record, being nearly up to the highest previous to the War. Bombay and Calcutta have over a thousand bags each.

The members of the Mosul Commission appointed by the League of Nations have reserved passages by the Nairn Overland Motor Service, leaving Beyrout for Baghdad in the second week of January.

Steaua Romana (British) is advised that well No. 14 Runcu produced on Friday week 1,060 tons, and Saturday 800 tons, and on Sunday 780 tons. The well then sanded up, but active cleaning operations are in progress.

According to Reuter's Sofia correspondent, the Bulgarian Premier, M. Tsankoff, will shortly pay a number of visits to foreign countries for the purpose of discussing various matters affecting Bulgaria. The Premier will probably first visit Belgrade and Bucharest.

Fifteen Chittagong fishermen have been rescued off Madras after being buffeted in the Bay of Bengal for thirty-nine days by the recent cyclone. They exhausted their food supply on December 13, and they had only half a cup of water each daily.

At a meeting of the Russo-Roumanian Mixed Commission on December 15, which is dealing with the question of the Dniester frontier, it was decided to place a strict prohibition on the passage of refugees and to take energetic measures to guard the frontier.

At a recent Durbar at Amraoti Sir Frank Sly, the Governor of the Central Provinces, India, gave an assurance that no step would be taken in regard to the possible transfer of Berar to the administration of the Nizam of Hyderabad without giving the people of Berar full opportunity of expressing their wishes.

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NALDERA	16,000	Dec. 26	Jan. 2	Bombay & Karachi
*MALWA	11,000	Jan. 2	Jan. 9	Straits, China, Japan
KAISAR-I-H'D	11,430	Jan. 9	Jan. 16	Bombay & Karachi
†NOVARA	7,000	Jan. 16	—	Colombo & Calcutta
†KASHGAR	9,000	Jan. 16	—	Straits, China, Japan
*MALOJA	21,000	Jan. 16	Jan. 23	Colombo & Australia
DEVANHA	8,000	Jan. 23	Jan. 30	Bombay & Karachi

* Taking passengers for Bombay, via Aden. † Calling at Malta.

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¶†MORVADA	8,193	—	Jan. 2	Bombay & Karachi
MANTOLA	8,963	—	Jan. 3	Madras & Calcutta
*MANDALA	9,146	Jan. 10	Jan. 16	Bombay & Karachi
MERKARA	8,235	Jan. 7	Jan. 17	Madras & Calcutta
‡WANG'RATTA	7,897	Jan. 9	Jan. 17	Queensland Ports
MANELA	8,303	—	Jan 23	East African Ports
‡DOMALA	8,441	Jan. 17	Jan. 30	Bombay & Karachi
MADURA	8,975	Jan. 24	Jan. 31	Madras & Calcutta

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City of Exeter	9,447	Jan. 9	Bombay and Karachi
*City of Nagpur	10,138	Jan. 13	Colombo and Calcutta

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*City of Alexandria	4,712	Mar. 6	
*City of Sparta	5,415	April 3	

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